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The Guardian

May pleads for EU to give ground and rescue Brexit

Rajeev Syal and Lisa O'Carroll

Theresa May is preparing to make another desperate plea to EU leaders to offer a concession on the Irish backstop as she attempts to win over Brexiters who have vowed to vote down the government's deal.

The prime minister promised yesterday to hold the meaningful vote in parliament in the week beginning 14 January despite growing opposition from Conservative backbenchers and the Democratic Unionist party, whose votes are required to push the deal through parliament.

As MPs prepare to return to Westminster with the crucial vote looming, Downing Street said new compromises could still be won from Europe in order to ensure the safe passage of May's plan. The hope of new developments to break the impasse came as opposition to May's deal hardened. The hurdles facing May include:

- Brexiters warning that the government is facing a "disaster" if it fails to ditch the current deal, while the DUP deputy leader, Nigel Dodds, described the Irish backstop as "toxic".
- EU sources said talks due to be held

in Dublin tomorrow between the Irish taoiseach, Leo Varadkar, and Germany's foreign minister would not seek to reopen negotiations over the 585-page withdrawal agreement.

● Senior MPs, including Yvette Cooper and Nicky Morgan, are launching a parliamentary campaign to rewrite government legislation to block a no-deal Brexit.

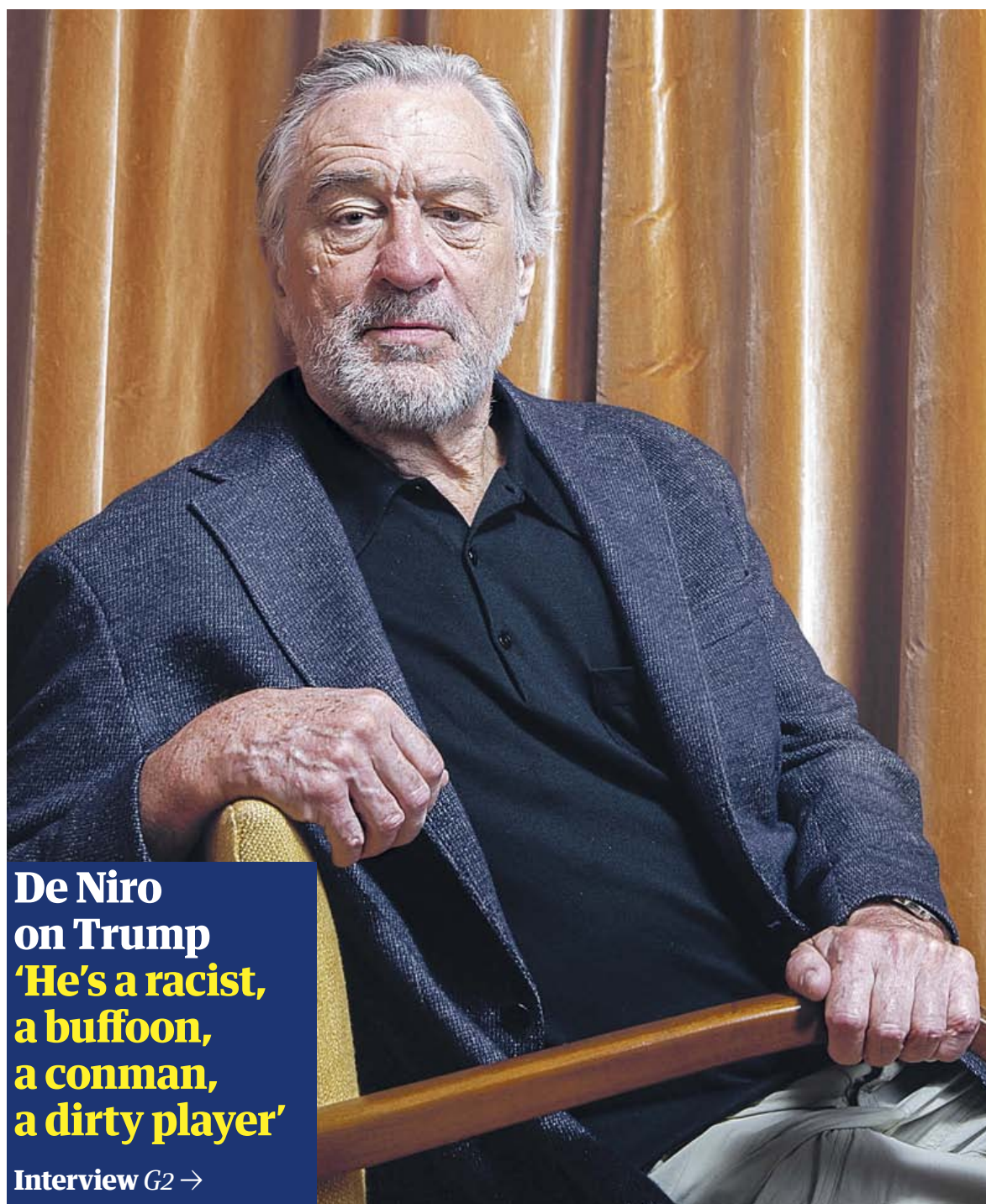
● The former Conservative party chairman Lord Patten called for a second referendum on Brexit.

● More than 200 MPs have signed a letter calling for May to rule out a no-deal Brexit. The Tory ex-minister Caroline Spelman, who organised the letter with Labour's Jack Dromey, said the group had been invited to see the prime minister tomorrow.

In an interview yesterday, May said the vote - which was due to be held last month and postponed - would go ahead in the week beginning 14 January as she sought further clarification from the EU to address MPs' concerns.

She also said she would look at giving parliament a greater say in how the UK's future relationship would be negotiated, but refused to say exactly what that might be.

Asked if there had been any changes she could offer



De Niro on Trump 'He's a racist, a buffoon, a conman, a dirty player'

Interview G2 →

PHOTOGRAPH: CHRISTOPHER LANE FOR THE GUARDIAN

NHS to outline plans to save half a million lives

Denis Campbell
Health policy editor

NHS leaders will today outline a future in which genomics, cutting-edge surgery and artificial intelligence help save hundreds of thousands more

lives and in which every area of care is improved in return for the government's major funding boost.

Theresa May and Simon Stevens, the chief executive of NHS England, will finally publish the service's long-term plan, which will pledge to transform between April and 2029 the

help it provides to everyone from premature babies to the growing number of older people.

It will set out detailed plans to dramatically reduce the number of people dying from big killers such as cancer, heart attacks and strokes. It will explain how the NHS will spend the funding increase May announced last year to mark the health service's 70th anniversary, which will see its budget rise in England from £115bn to £135bn by 2023-24.

But experts, doctors' leaders and Labour warned the vision risked being

undermined and reduced to "groundless aspirations" because of the NHS's deepening staffing crisis, continued cuts to public health and limits to what the extra investment could achieve.

Stevens said the document "keeps all that's good about our health service and its place in our national life. It tackles head-on the pressures our staff face. And it sets a practical, costed, phased route map for the NHS's priorities for care quality and outcomes improvement for the decade ahead."

Ministers and NHS England have already disclosed



How to take back control of our data

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News

▼ Workers said they feared they might not be able to pay off their Christmas debts until May

PHOTOGRAPH: HENRY NICHOLLS/REUTERS



Household debts reach record average of £15,385

Miles Brignall

Britain's household debt mountain has reached a new peak, with an average of £15,385 owed to credit card firms, banks and other loan providers, according to the TUC.

The trade union body said debts rose sharply in 2018 as years of austerity and wage stagnation forced households to raise their borrowing.

In its annual report into the nation's finances it said the total amount owed rose to £428bn in the third quarter of last year. Each household owed £886 more than a year earlier. The figures do not include outstanding mortgage debts but do include student loans.

The level of unsecured debt as a share of household income is now almost a third - 30.4% - and stands at the highest level it has ever been. It is well above the £286bn peak in 2008 ahead of the financial crisis, the TUC said. That figure also includes student loans, but tuition fees then were £3,000 a year compared with up to £9,250 now.

Public spending cuts and years

of wage stagnation are key reasons behind the increase in unsecured debt, said the TUC, adding that working families are on average worse off today than before the financial crisis.

The rise of the gig economy and zero-hour contracts - which do not offer guaranteed work hours - are also thought to be a significant contributing factor.

The TUC's general secretary, Frances O'Grady, said: "Household debt is at crisis level. Years of austerity and wage stagnation has pushed millions of families deep into the red. The government is skating on thin ice by relying on household debt to drive

£428bn

The total amount UK households owe to credit card firms, banks and other loan providers, says the TUC

30%

Unsecured debt as a proportion of household income. The figure includes student loans

growth. A strong economy needs people spending wages, not credit cards and loans."

O'Grady said the minimum wage, at £7.83 an hour for over-25-year-olds, remains too low and should be raised to £10 "as quickly as possible". She also said too few workers have the power to bargain for higher wages, and trade unions must be given the freedom to enter all workplaces and organise collective wage bargaining.

To compile its figures, the TUC compared the total amount lent in bank overdrafts, personal loans, store cards, payday loans and outstanding credit card debts. Student loans add a substantial amount to the figures. Graduates can now expect to leave degree courses with £50,000 in debts, but are not required to make student loan repayments if they are not earning at least £21,000-£25,000.

The TUC data shows that in 1998 households faced average unsecured debts of £5,456. A decade later, and just as the financial crisis was starting, that sum had doubled to £11,146. Since 2008 households have been struggling with flat or falling incomes, at a time when prices have risen fast.

In October, the Bank of England's chief economist, Andy Haldane, said the rise of insecure work in the gig economy had fuelled a "lost decade" in wage growth in Britain.

The TUC's £15,385 debt figure does not include further debts incurred over Christmas, which would be expected to push the figure even higher, according to research published today.

Workers expect to start the year with an average of £252 debt left over from the festive period. Shift and gig workers were hit hardest, putting £352 of festive spending on credit, according to the mobile app company Wagestream. Workers told researchers that they feared they would not be able to pay off Christmas debts until May.

Becky O'Connor, personal finance specialist at the life insurer Royal London, said: "Paying off debt of this size can feel like a losing battle when there is no hope of an income rise on the horizon. It will be scant comfort that millions of other households are in the same boat."

Two British special forces troops injured in Islamic State missile attack

following the incident, which is thought to have happened on Saturday morning. One Kurdish fighter was also killed in the attack, according to reports.

Rudaw, a Kurdish news outlet, reported that the British soldiers were hurt in an Isis attack on a Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) base in the town of Deir ez-Zor, in the east of the country.

An SDF official told the news agency: "Due to a smart missile attack by Isis, a fighter of the YPG [Kurdish militia] was killed and another wounded, in addition to two British soldiers."

The area is one of the last pockets of territory still controlled by Isis in the Euphrates river valley.

British special forces are believed to be on the ground in Syria, but the UK government does not comment on where they are deployed. The Ministry of Defence said in a statement: "We do not comment on special forces."

The UK has formed part of the US-led coalition carrying out airstrikes against Isis in Syria, where there are approximately 2,000 US troops.

Last month, Trump said that he was

withdrawing US troops from Syria, claiming that Isis had been defeated, although on Saturday a Trump official hinted that some troops might remain.

Trump said: "We have defeated Isis in Syria, my only reason for being there during the Trump presidency."

The announcement shocked US allies and American defence officials alike. The US defence secretary, Jim Mattis, and a top US official in the fight against Isis, Brett McGurk, resigned soon after.

Analysts and military experts, who disagree with Trump, have said the threat posed by Isis still remains in Syria and northern Iraq.

The British government also contradicted Trump's claim that Isis had been defeated in Syria.

Last month a spokesman said: "Much remains to be done and we must not lose sight of the threat they pose. Even without territory, Daesh [Isis] will remain a threat."

In March, a British soldier, Sgt Matt Tonroe of 3rd Battalion the Parachute Regiment, was killed by an IED while embedded with US forces during an operation in Manbij, Syria.

▼ Hastings pier opened in 1872 as a Victorian pleasure park and later became a popular live music venue

PHOTOGRAPH: PAUL LAWRENSEN/ALAMY



Battle of Hastings pier heats up over closure for 'upgrade'

Kim Willsher

The battle of Hastings pier has erupted publicly in insults and accusations after a decision to close the seaside town's prize-winning attraction for two months.

Furious locals have accused the owner, Sheikh Abid Gulzar, of locking them out and keeping them in the dark over his plans for its future after his sudden decision to shut it until March for "repairs and improvements".

Gulzar responded by saying campaigners had been rude and insulting and wanted "everything for free".

The latest outbreak of hostilities, conducted mainly on social media, marks a new low in relations between campaigners and the owner. The warring sides on different visions for the pier, which won the prestigious Stirling prize for architecture in 2017.

Hastings residents accuse Gulzar of cheapening the listed Victorian structure with plans for an amusement arcade and the installation of fibre-glass animals.

James Chang, of the campaign group Friends of Hastings Pier (FoHP), said locals wanted "sympathetic development" of the pier.

"We're not objecting to the development, we're objecting to the nature of development," he told the Guardian. In an interview with BBC Sussex, Chang added: "What we are asking for is transparency. We want to know the

plans for the pier. We need to know that the pier is being well cared for and looked after. There's £14m of public money that has been invested [in it]."

Gulzar, a hotelier and businessman who also owns Eastbourne pier, hit back, saying there had been arson attacks and thefts on the pier. He said that a recent fire in the cafe had been a close call.

"Safety is paramount. We have had one or two incidents that have frightened me ... had that fire happened early morning or late evening the whole of that building would have gone up in flames."

He added: "I will make sure this pier will be one of the best, but I will not tolerate any nonsense where people come and use swearwords and want everything for free. The most important thing is to get on with this work. I will do everything right. I love Hastings, it's one of the best seafronts, but it should improve."

Since it opened in 1872, Hastings pier has gone from Victorian pleasure park to popular music venue, - with performances by Pink Floyd, Jimi Hendrix and the Rolling Stones - to crumbling edifice "one good storm away from collapse". It was damaged by fire in 2010 and reopened in 2016 after a £14m renovation funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. However, a local charity set up to run the pier went bankrupt in November 2017.

FoHP raised about £750,000 in crowdfunding and offered to buy it on behalf of the community, but

administrators sold it to Gulzar in June last year for £60,000, according to land registry documents.

Peter Wheeler, the pier's former chief maintenance engineer, and several other pier staff are taking legal action against Gulzar for "constructive dismissal".

"At the moment there is no dedicated team available to work on Hastings pier. We had eyes on it every day, checking it, making sure bolts were tightened and things like that," Wheeler told the Guardian.

"Someone has been climbing up underneath and unscrewing the sewage pipe caps. We spotted it and replaced them, but two days later the caps were taken again. You'd have to be pretty nimble to climb up the underneath. It's malevolent."

Wheeler accused Gulzar of closing it unnecessarily. "There's always maintenance to be done, but it doesn't mean you have to shut the pier," he said.

Amber Rudd, the local MP, has expressed concern, but Peter Chowney, leader of Hastings borough council, said the authority had no direct control over the pier.

"It is privately owned, and the owner is entitled to adopt whatever opening hours he wants to," Chowney told the Hastings Observer, adding that it was "unfortunate that no prior notice was given" and the closure "could have been handled better".

Gulzar's spokesman, Brett McLean, said he hoped the pier could be opened by mid-February. He said an engineering team was carrying out regular checks. At the weekend, pictures of engineers reportedly replacing a guard on one of the pier columns were published on its Facebook page.

McLean added: "The personal attacks on Mr Gulzar are extremely unkind, unnecessary and unwanted and ... are the shameful creation of a small but vocal minority."



Pier pressure

£750k

Amount of money raised by Friends of Hastings Pier in crowdfunding to buy it for the local community

£60,000

Amount paid for the pier by Sheikh Abid Gulzar, above, when he bought it from administrators in June 2018

£14m

Cost of renovation funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund after the pier was badly damaged by fire in 2010

Strange noises at US embassy in Havana were just crickets, scientists say

Ian Sample
Science editor

The US embassy in Havana more than halved its staff in 2017 when diplomats complained of headaches, nausea and other ailments after hearing shrill noises in their homes and hotels.

The mysterious wave of illness fuelled speculation that the staff had been targeted by an acoustic weapon - an explanation that gained weight when an audio recording of a persistent, high-pitched drone, made by US personnel in Cuba, was released to the Associated Press.

But a fresh analysis of the recording has revealed what scientists in the UK and the US now believe is the source of the din: the song of the Indies short-tailed cricket. "The recording is definitely a cricket that belongs to the same group," said Fernando Montealegre-Zapata, a professor of sensory biology at the University of Lincoln. "I am not surprised that this call could disturb people who are not familiar with insect sounds."

The identification of the sound source does not mean that an attack of some sort did not happen, but it casts doubt over the sound being responsible for the diplomats' health problems.

The spate of unexplained health problems led doctors at the University of Pennsylvania to run tests on nearly two dozen embassy staff. In March, the team concluded that the diplomats had suffered concussion-like injuries, but other medical professionals have challenged the conclusions, claiming test results had been misinterpreted.

In the new study, Montealegre-Zapata and Alexander Stubbs at the University of California searched a scientific database for insect sounds that matched the Cuban recording. The call of the Indies short-tailed cricket turned out to be remarkably similar.

But the cricket's mating call and the Cuban recording did not match up perfectly. The sound recorded in Havana had an uneven pulse structure not found in calling insects. Stubbs and Montealegre-Zapata realised that the discrepancy might be down to the environments in which the recordings were made. If the Cuban recording had been made in a room, the odd pulse structure might be explained by echoes off the walls, floor and ceiling.



▲ Staff at the US embassy in Havana were initially thought to have been targeted by an acoustic weapon

Ex-US marine held by Moscow is being used as pawn, brother claims

Julian Borger
Washington

The brother of Paul Whelan, the former US marine arrested in Russia on espionage charges, has claimed that his twin was being used as "a pawn in some larger scheme", having found himself "in the wrong place at the wrong time".

David Whelan said his family had not been given any details of what his brother was alleged to have done.

He said there had been no official confirmation of a Russian press report claiming Paul Whelan had been given a USB drive containing the names of people employed at a top secret state organisation.

He also said the Whelan family had not been given any new information since the US ambassador visited his brother in Lefortovo prison in Moscow, where he has been held since his arrest on 28 December.

The lawyer assigned to the prisoner

did not speak English and Paul Whelan, head of security for a Michigan auto parts firm and who was in Moscow to attend a wedding, spoke a few words of Russian, his brother said.

There has been speculation that Whelan had been arrested with the intention of exchanging him for Russians in prison in the US such as Maria Butina, who pleaded guilty last month to conspiracy to infiltrate Republican political circles. She is cooperating with federal prosecutors.

On Saturday, the Russian foreign ministry said a Russian citizen had been detained the day after Whelan's arrest in the US Pacific territory of the Northern Mariana Islands and transferred to Florida.

The Russian man, Dmitry Makarenko, had been accused in US federal court in June 2017 of conspiring to export defence articles, including night-vision scopes, from the US to Russia without approval.

The Russian deputy foreign minister Sergei Ryabkov dismissed



suggestions that Whelan might be part of a prisoner swap. "I see no reasons to raise this issue in context of exchanges," Ryabkov said, according to the Interfax news agency.

David Whelan said no official had mentioned the possibility of an

'I think he was definitely in the wrong place at the wrong time'

David Whelan
Brother of detained man

▼ David Whelan, below, says his family has had no contact with the Russian lawyer appointed to represent his brother Paul, left



exchange to him. "The family's focus is getting Paul home and whatever means we can use to do that I would support," he said in a phone interview from Toronto.

Paul Whelan holds four passports - US, British, Canadian and Irish - as he was born in Canada to British parents, moved to the US and served in the marines and has an Irish grandfather.

The four governments would coordinate how to handle the case over the next few days, David Whelan said. The US had so far taken the lead as his brother had entered Russia on his US passport.

David Whelan welcomed remarks in support of his brother by Britain's foreign secretary, Jeremy Hunt, on

Friday, particularly his warning to Russia not to use its prisoner as a geo-political pawn.

"I think Paul is perhaps a pawn in some larger scheme," David Whelan said. "I think he was definitely in the wrong place at the wrong time."

He said he did not know what to make of allegations published in the Russian media outlet Rosbalt that his brother had cultivated contacts from the Russian defence and security services for a decade, and had been arrested in his hotel room with a USB drive containing classified information.

"I think it's difficult to know whether it's accurate or not," he said. "I would feel more confident if it had come from the Russian government in an official statement."

"I don't understand why, over a week since he was detained, there is no rudimentary information on what happened, why he was picked up, what he was found with. Surely if that was available that would be relatively easy to release."

David Whelan said the family had had no contact with Vladimir Zherebenkov, the lawyer assigned to represent his brother, and was unsure how he came to be hired, as the US embassy only recommended English-speaking lawyers.

"It's our understanding that he doesn't speak English, which is a little bit of surprise," he said.

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NEVER KNOWINGLY UNDERSOLD SINCE 1925

JOHN
LEWIS
& PARTNERS

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Turning the page

Local bookshops make a comeback

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National

Toddler taken in stolen car found safe after three-hour police hunt

Patrick Greenfield and agency

A 17-month-old girl who was inside a relative's car when it was stolen in Newham, east London, has been found, Scotland Yard has said.

Maria Tudorica had been in an Audi A5 that was later found abandoned near Hathaway Crescent in east London without her inside.

Shortly after 8pm yesterday Scotland Yard said that she had been found wandering in the street about a quarter of a mile away. She had been missing for three hours. The suspect, who is still at large, was described as an Asian man of slim build, dressed in black clothing.

A statement from the Metropolitan police said the car had been stolen at about 4.37pm, when the girl's father "met with an unknown man in Nine Acres Close, E12, with a view to selling his car. The man jumped into the car and drove away."

The police said the girl was in the front passenger seat when the car was taken.

Maria's uncle Gheorghe Stelica said he was trying to sell the car on Gumtree when it was stolen with his niece inside. When the girl was found, he was overjoyed. "God bless," he said. "I feel born again. [My brother], he's happy. He thanks so much the police for their service."

The 25-year-old car trader said he was outside London at the time the prospective buyer called so got his brother, Claudia Stelica, 35, to show him the car. But he said after his brother let the stranger try the engine, he drove off with Maria inside.

He said his brother had placed Maria on the seat as he demonstrated the engine. Then the man wanted to test it for himself.

"My brother left his girl on the seat and started the engine to show him the car. He said let me check the engine a bit ... he entered the car and straight away ran," he said.

"He jumped up in the driver's side and - boom - straight away he went with the car."



▲ Maria Tudorica was taken in an Audi stolen in east London



PHOTOGRAPH:
IMAGEPLOTTER/REX

Last days of merriment The traditional Twelfth Night midwinter celebration marking Epiphany - the arrival of the wise men - takes place at Bankside, London, featuring the Holly Man being piped over the Thames. He is joined by the London Mummers, to toast the people. The procession then heads from Shakespeare's Globe to end at the George Inn, Southwark.

MPs criticise NHS over failure to prescribe medical cannabis

Mattha Busby

There is a "serious cultural block" within the NHS around medical cannabis, according to MPs.

The criticism comes after it emerged that the family of the first child to be prescribed medical cannabis after its legalisation must pay almost £10,000 a year to access the privately prescribed medicine following a bureaucratic "assault course".

The all-party parliamentary group (APPG) for medical cannabis under prescription condemned the workings of the current licensing regime, saying it could not have been what the government envisaged when it legalised medical cannabis in November.

"For Jorja [the first child to be prescribed medical cannabis] and her family this is a great day and I commend the private consultant,

supported by her private hospital, who has taken the courageous decision, which she genuinely feels is in the best interest of her patient," said the Conservative MP Sir Mike Penning, co-chair of the APPG.

"But the fact remains that there is a serious cultural block within the NHS around medical cannabis. Other families, many with children just as seriously ill as Jorja, continue to face a complete block from their NHS medical teams."

He said that most families did not have the means to go private, and in any case "the number of even private clinicians willing to prescribe appears to be in low single figures".

Penning added: "I do not believe that this is what the prime minister and home secretary envisaged when they made the bold change in the law on 1 November to reschedule medical cannabis to enable consultants to prescribe it."

Calling for action from the "highest levels of government" to rectify a system that was "letting patients down", the Labour MP and APPG co-chair Tonia Antoniazzi said: "The high-profile cases over the summer of Alfie Dingley and others clearly show that for some epileptic children medical cannabis containing low concentrations of THC can be life-transforming.

"Denying parents the right for their children to try these newly available

medicines is cruel. It appears that the medical profession is totally wedded to only prescribing a substance for which there is double blind trial evidence. But there is a need for a common-sense perspective here.

"To our knowledge, no one has ever died from taking THC, and in any case the concentrations that we are talking about in these medicines are very low," she said.

Two-year-old Jorja Emerson has a rare form of epilepsy that causes life-threatening seizures. She has been treated with a number of heavily sedative pharmaceutical drugs that consultants have said are causing long-lasting damaging effects.

Her father, Robin Emerson, said: "This has been an assault course of bureaucracy and a roller-coaster ride of severe ups and downs.

"I have faced near total opposition in my quest to get my daughter access to a medicine that is now legal in the UK and has been shown to work in similar cases. No family should have to endure what we have been through.

"Thanks to the generosity of friends and supporters I have managed to raise enough money to fund the first few months of the medicine. But at £833.75 per month I face a desperately difficult future."

'There is a serious cultural block within the NHS around medical cannabis'

Sir Mike Penning
Conservative MP

Wayne Rooney arrested over drunken incident at airport

Patrick Greenfield and agencies

England's all-time-leading scorer, Wayne Rooney, was arrested in the US accused of public intoxication and swearing at a Washington DC airport, it has emerged.

The former Manchester United star, who plays for the Major League Soccer team DC United, was taken into custody on 16 December in Virginia, according to court records. He was released on his own recognisance – a promise to appear in court – and paid a \$25 (£20) fine plus \$91 costs on Friday. It is believed the 33-year-old was

detained at Washington Dulles International airport, near the football club's stadium.

A spokesman for Loudoun County sheriff's office said: "He was booked into the adult detention centre on 16 December on a charge of public intoxication stemming from an arrest by the Metropolitan Washington airports authority police. He was later released on a personal recognisance bond."

In September 2017, Rooney was banned from driving for two years and given a 12-month community order after pleading guilty to being almost



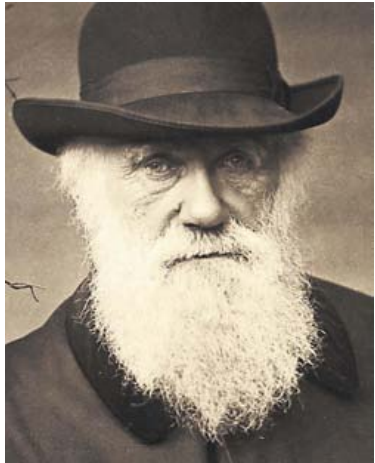
▲ Rooney's police photo taken by the Loudoun County sheriff's office

three times over the drink-drive limit during an incident in Alderley Edge, Cheshire.

After the incident, Rooney issued a public apology for his "unforgivable lack of judgment".

He added: "I have already said sorry to my family, my manager and chairman and everyone at Everton FC [his club at the time]. Now I want to apologise to all the fans and everyone else who has followed and supported me throughout my career."

Rooney's representatives have not issued a statement on the US incident.



▲ Charles Darwin could have been infected with Lyme disease via a sheep tick, right, also called a castor bean tick, while carrying out field work in Britain



Darwin 'may have had Lyme disease'

Ian Sample
Science editor

He travelled the world studying exotic creatures in dangerous lands, but the disease that marred Charles Darwin's life may have been caught closer to home as he trudged around Britain collecting insects, shooting birds and picking up stones, researchers say.

The Victorian naturalist who gave the world the theory of evolution is a strong contender for the most famously ill scientist in history. His diaries, notebooks and letters brim with despair over ailments ranging from diarrhoea, rashes and heart palpitations to vomiting, muscle pain and incessant flatulence.

While hypochondria undoubtedly played a part in Darwin's misery, researchers have failed to agree on what illness or illnesses lay behind his poor health. Medical historians have proposed everything from the insect-borne Chagas disease or panic disorder with agoraphobia to lactose intolerance and recurrent vomiting brought on by an unusual genetic mutation.

Now researchers in the Netherlands have come up with their own explanation. They suspect he picked up Lyme disease from an infected tick while doing field work in Britain as a young man. "He had a lot of different symptoms: involuntary twitching of muscles, swimming of the head, a

shortness of breath, trembling hands, and all of them came and went, and that is quite typical of Lyme disease," said Erwin Kompanje, a clinical researcher at the Erasmus University Medical Centre in Rotterdam.

Kompanje and his colleague Jelle Reumer at the Natural History Museum in Rotterdam (NHMR) searched online databases of Darwin's notes and correspondence for any mention of symptoms that might betray his underlying illness.

When Darwin was in Argentina in 1835, he described being bitten by the "great black bug of the Pampas", which can transmit Chagas disease. But the Dutch researchers believe his mild, fluctuating symptoms, which started to appear before he reached South America, are more consistent with Lyme disease. The infection is caused by *Borrelia* bacteria, which are carried by certain ticks.

"Exposure to a tick carrying *Borrelia* in Great Britain is much more plausible than exposure to Chagas disease during his travels in South America," the researchers write in *Deinsea*, the journal of the NHMR.

But other scientists may not be convinced by the Lyme disease hypothesis. The condition is known as "the great imitator" because the symptoms mimic so many other diseases. One common sign of being bitten by an infected tick is a red bulls-eye-type rash, but such a mark is never described in Darwin's writing.

Richard Wall, a specialist in ticks at the University of Bristol, said: "Borreliosis is a particularly difficult infection to diagnose symptomatically even when the patient is available because of the diffuse and highly variable nature of the clinical signs; some researchers even question the existence of a chronic form of the disease. So retrospective diagnosis at a historical distance of 200 years, while interesting, must be considered as highly speculative."

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iPhone Xs	36 months	£29.99	£24.95	£898	£927.99	0%	0%	£927.99	£24	£24 + RPI announced in Feb 2019 = Price A	Price A + RPI announced in Feb 2020

Detectives get more time to question suspects over train killing

Caroline Davies

Detectives were last night still questioning a man over the fatal stabbing of a 51-year-old father on a London-bound train on Friday.

The 35-year-old was arrested in the early hours of Saturday, along with a 27-year-old woman accused of assisting an offender, after a manhunt led police to a flat in Farnham, Surrey.

Lee Pomeroy, from Guildford, had been taking his son, 14, on a trip to



▲ Lee Pomeroy would have celebrated his birthday a day after the stabbing

London when he was stabbed to death in what relatives described as a "horrific and pointless attack".

British Transport Police said investigators had been granted a further 12 hours to question the arrested pair, who remain in custody.

Describing Pomeroy as a "devoted family man", his family said on Saturday: "Lee took his son on a trip to London hoping to spend some quality time with him, which was cut short by an horrific and pointless attack. Lee would have had his birthday today but did not get to see his presents."

He lived in Guildford with his wife, Svetlana, 50, and their son. The couple reportedly both worked for Datronix Systems, an IT consultancy, where he was a programmer and director.

He and his son had boarded the 12.58pm train service from Guildford to Waterloo. Witnesses say there was a three- to four-minute row, moving through the carriage and into another before the attack.

The suspected killer fled the train at Clendon station. The train continued to Horsley station, where police and paramedics attended.

Police spy may have misled inquiry over sexual relationships

Rob Evans

A police spy appears to have misled a public inquiry about sexual relationships he had with two women while he was undercover.

The officer initially told the inquiry that he had not had sexual relationships with the two women while using the fake name of James Straven.

He later admitted that he did have the relationships while he infiltrated animal rights groups between 1997 and 2002. The two women only discovered he had deceived them after he made this admission.

A public inquiry, led by the retired judge Sir John Mitting, is examining the conduct of undercover officers who have spied on more than 1,000 political groups since 1968, including incidents when they formed intimate relationships with women while concealing their real identities.

According to the inquiry, Straven denied the existence of the two relationships in a signed statement in October 2017. At that time, he had been attempting for more than a year to persuade the inquiry to make a legal order keeping his identity secret.

Straven lost his attempt to keep his identity concealed as Mitting did not accept his denial about the sexual relationships.

In April 2018, Straven admitted to the inquiry that he had the intimate relationships with both women.

The women have now become part of the inquiry and are due to give evidence about how he deceived them.

One of the women, known as Sara, as she has been granted anonymity by Mitting, told the inquiry that Straven conducted a deceitful intimate relationship with her between late 1998 and March 2001.

Sara said: "Why should we be surprised that he hasn't been honest? Anything any undercover officer has to say is up for argument; they are trained liars and deceivers."

"Apart from the confusion and deep emotional effects of these officers on the women targeted, what appals me is that these relationships appear to have been sanctioned at a higher level, which amounts to state abuse and institutionalised sexism."

"No concern at all for using

women's lives, including the wives of the officers."

The second woman, known as Ellie, has told the inquiry that Straven had initiated a sexual relationship with her in 2001 that lasted about a year.

Straven said he intended to fully cooperate with the inquiry and provide any evidence he was able to give. "It does not seem appropriate that matters the inquiry is going to investigate should be ventilated in the media beforehand," he said.

The inquiry, which has been much delayed, is due to start hearing evidence in public in June.

An analysis by the Guardian shows that, so far, 20 undercover officers deployed in political groups between the mid-1970s and 2010 are known to have had sexual relationships, some of them lasting years, while using fake identities. All but one are men.

Some of the men had relationships with more than one woman. Police have paid compensation to at least 12 women who were deceived.

Straven was a member of the Metropolitan police's special demonstration squad, which infiltrated political groups between 1968 and 2008. He spied on the Animal Liberation Front and activists from Brixton and Croydon who opposed foxhunting.

Mitting's inquiry is also examining why Straven appears to have used a second false identity without the authorisation of his supervisors.

According to the inquiry, this second identity was Kevin Crossland, a five-year-old boy who had died in a plane crash in the former Yugoslavia in 1966 when he was going on holiday with his family.

Undercover officers routinely stole the identities of dead children, with the authority of their superiors.

'These relationships appear to have been sanctioned at a higher level, which amounts to state abuse'

Sara
Witness to the inquiry



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▼ The PM told Andrew Marr she would reassure MPs on Northern Ireland, the role of parliament and the EU27

PHOTOGRAPH: BBC



What happens next

It's back to work for MPs, but have they listened to May?

Heather Stewart

Like Britain's children, MPs will spend today reacquainting themselves with their friends and reluctantly returning their attention to the task ahead. The job ahead is formidable: with Britain due to leave the EU in less than 12 weeks' time, parliament has neither approved an exit deal nor put in place legislation to ensure a smooth departure. Theresa May is hoping MPs have spent their break considering their duty to honour the result of the 2016 referendum, even if they don't love the detail of her deal.

How will May be kicking off the new parliamentary term?

She'll be away from Westminster, making a speech to launch the government's 10-year plan for the NHS, which will underpin the £20bn a year increase in funding announced last summer.

The plan was delayed before Christmas, and some in government believe it is still not ready to see the light of day; but the prime minister is keen to highlight, both to the public and to her own MPs, that she has other priorities to get on with.

When do MPs get back to Brexit?

The Commons is due to begin debating the prime minister's deal on Wednesday. No date has been set for the meaningful vote, but May

has indicated it will be Tuesday or Wednesday next week. MPs will have to pass a motion before the debate begins, setting out how many days of discussion will be held. There has been speculation about a fresh delay before the vote as May seeks EU27 reassurances - in particular about the backstop. But time is extremely tight, so that would be an even more desperate measure than last month's postponement.

Has anything changed?

May told the BBC's Andrew Marr yesterday that MPs could expect reassurances in the next few days in three areas: Northern Ireland; the role of parliament in future negotiations; and from the EU27

member states. Downing Street is hoping to win over the 10 Democratic Unionist party MPs as May promised she would try to do when she appealed to Tory colleagues to back her in the no confidence vote last month.

The DUP's deputy leader, Nigel Dodds, said the backstop provision remained the "poison" affecting any vote: "Theresa May still insists what she has negotiated is a good deal. She should remember it would have been consigned to the bin but for her pulling the vote in December."

Germany and Ireland have been consulting closely on a plan to offer the prime minister a helping hand, including by extending the non-legally-binding political declaration to include promises that the Irish backstop will never need to be used. Jean-Claude Juncker, the European commission president, has also been involved in seeking a compromise. Brexit watchers report reluctance to give concessions before the deal is rejected. "There is a desire in Brussels to leave final concessions to the very last minute so it is too late for Eurosceptics to demand more," says Mujtaba Rahman of Eurasia Group consultants.

What if/when the vote is lost?

That depends partly on the margin

of defeat. If it is less than, say, 100, the government may hope it can have one last go at winning something extra from the EU27, and then come back to the Commons for another roll of the dice.

Parliamentary convention would make that difficult, as it suggests a government cannot simply table the same motion repeatedly in the hope of winning it; but substantive enough concessions might allow May to argue she is asking MPs to consider a different proposition.

Labour is likely to table a vote of no confidence in the government, though it is unclear whether it would do so immediately - and even less clear if it could win it. Jeremy Corbyn has said Labour would try to force May to pursue a different approach to Brexit - in particular a permanent customs union. Pressure on May from inside the cabinet would also

'May must remember her deal would have been binned if she'd not pulled the vote'

Nigel Dodds

Democratic Unionists

Five to watch Brexit power players



Angela Merkel

The German chancellor, below, has sent her foreign minister to Dublin for talks about Brexit tomorrow following a lengthy call with Varadkar last week. Merkel will do what she can to help May get the withdrawal agreement through parliament but there are limits to how far she will bend.

Arlene Foster

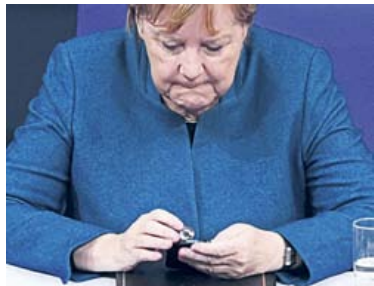
The leader of the Democratic Unionist party (DUP), above, has said she cannot support the Brexit withdrawal agreement in its current form and has called on Theresa May to renegotiate the deal with the EU. The prime minister is expected to reveal further assurances from the EU over the Irish border in the coming days. How the 10 DUP MPs in parliament react will be crucial to the withdrawal deal's survival.

Leo Varadkar

The Irish taoiseach has ruled out any fundamental changes to the Brexit withdrawal agreement but is working hard to help the deal pass through parliament. His influence in the EU and approval for last-minute changes could break the deadlock.

Michel Barnier

Dismissed as a technocrat clerk by Brexiters, the French politician who is the EU's chief Brexit negotiator will play a vital part in concluding the withdrawal stage of the Brexit process and laying the groundwork for the coming trade negotiations. That is assuming the UK does leave the EU.



Jacob Rees-Mogg

The eccentric Brexiter backbencher is the chair of the no-deal-supporting European Research Group (ERG). How he manages the alliance of pro-Brexit Conservative MPs will be decisive if May's withdrawal agreement is to receive parliamentary approval.

Patrick Greenfield



Jacob Rees-Mogg of the ERG

intensify - though her ministers are divided, with Penny Mordaunt and Andrea Leadsom advocating a "managed no deal" at one end of the spectrum and Amber Rudd, at the other, willing to countenance a second referendum in the face of deadlock at Westminster. Downing Street still hopes to convince MPs - perhaps at the second time of asking - that they face a choice between her Brexit, no deal or no Brexit.

If it can win over the DUP, it hopes less hardline Tory leavers will follow; and Labour MPs in Brexit-leaning seats might swing behind May if the only other option appears to be no deal or ditching Brexit.

What if she loses again?

A crushing defeat next week, or a second loss later in the month as the stopwatch runs down towards 29 March, would amount to a major political crisis, with the government simply unable to get its deal ratified.

What would happen next is anyone's guess. May could herself decide to push the emergency button and call for a referendum or a general election - though both would require extending article 50, which in turn demands the agreement of the EU27.

The prime minister could try to test the will of MPs for alternative

options, through a series of so-called indicative votes - though there is scant enthusiasm for that idea in Downing Street.

She could even tack towards centrist Tories and the Labour frontbench by shifting towards a permanent customs union. The Lords will consider the trade bill on 21 and 23 January, which crossbench peers hope to use as another opportunity to force the issue.

May could even face a mass cabinet walkout, aimed at persuading her to step aside and let a successor take on the unenviable challenge of ramming Brexit through a hung parliament.

And meanwhile, MPs advocating alternative approaches - whether Labour's own version of Brexit, a closer, Norway-style relationship, or a second referendum - will seize the opportunity to ramp up the pressure, using every parliamentary tactic they can think of.

As the prime minister herself said, if the deal is rejected, "we are going to be in uncharted territory"; but there is little evidence as yet that the Christmas break has shifted the dynamic in Downing Street's favour. As one sardonic Whitehall source put it yesterday: "It's almost as if changing nothing and telling MPs to go and have a think isn't a strategy."

Labour Gardiner offers hope to campaigners for second EU referendum

Rajeev Syal and agencies

A Labour government could offer to hold a referendum on a Brexit deal renegotiated by the party, Barry Gardiner, the shadow international trade secretary, has suggested.

He said Labour could campaign on a manifesto promise to negotiate a better deal than that secured by Theresa May, and he believed that any such deal could then be put to the public.

Labour's official policy is to push for a general election if the prime minister fails to get her Brexit deal through parliament, but Jeremy Corbyn is facing demands from MPs, including several shadow cabinet members, to throw his weight behind a referendum if Labour cannot force an early election.

Pressure has intensified after an opinion poll commissioned by the People's Vote campaign indicated Labour could suffer a backlash from voters if it failed to oppose Brexit in parliament. The YouGov poll of more than 25,000 people indicated a second referendum was backed by 75% of Labour voters.

Gardiner, interviewed on Sky News, said the quickest way of getting a people's vote was to have a general election, because legislating for a referendum would take far longer. At an election, Labour "would set out what we would seek to negotiate in Europe to try and deliver," he said.

Gardiner said May had botched her EU negotiations because of her red lines, adding: "If we as a new, incoming Labour government were to go to

Europe without those red lines, we know that we could get a different, better deal.

"At that stage, it makes sense to go to the country and say, 'this is the deal that we have managed to conclude because we don't have the same red lines as Theresa May.' And it seems to me, at a personal level, what I would then say is that is the time when we would then say to people 'now make your decision on what we have managed to conclude'."

Gardiner's comments come after the YouGov poll found Labour trailing the Tories at 34% to 40%, with its support falling to 26% if Labour MPs voted with the Tories to bring about Brexit.

A Labour source said the party had made clear its priority was a good deal or a general election but without these,



▲ Barry Gardiner, Jeremy Corbyn and Emily Thornberry at a 2017 Labour event in Basildon, Essex, about Brexit PHOTOGRAPH: DAN KITWOOD/GETTY IMAGES

Continued from page 1

May to plead with EU for concessions on Irish backstop

to backbenchers expected to vote down her deal, she told BBC's Andrew Marr Show: "What we will be setting out over the next few days are assurances in three areas: first are measures specific to Northern Ireland; the second is a greater role for parliament as we take these negotiations forward into the next stage for our future relationship; and third, and we are still working on this, is further assurances from the European Union to address the issues that have been raised."

Whitehall sources said a compromise could still be found with the EU and that further planned announcements would be made this week which would win over MPs opposed to the deal.

"We will be working flat out. There will be further contacts with the EU leaders. The issue of the backstop is not yet over," a source said.

In the interview, May repeatedly sidestepped questions about whether she would keep putting the deal back to MPs to vote on if it is rejected, instead saying: "If the deal is not voted on, this

vote that is coming up, then actually we are going to be in uncharted territory. I don't think anybody can say exactly what will happen in terms of the reaction we will see in parliament."

Mark Francois, the vice-chair of the hardline-Brexit European Research Group, said May's intervention on Marr showed that the government and the EU had little to offer their critics.

"As the prime minister herself once said, nothing has changed. No Conservative backbencher that I am aware of who was declared as against the deal has publicly recanted.

"The PM made very clear on Marr that the vote will go ahead at this time and that is good because if they were to pull it a second time, as well as not being in power they would effectively no longer be in office."

Conservative sources claim there are between 55 and 71 MPs who plan to



▲ Yvette Cooper: the Labour MP is seeking to prevent a no-deal Brexit

"all options" remained on the table, including a campaign for a public vote.

However, Emily Thornberry, the shadow foreign secretary, yesterday accused the People's Vote campaign of seeking to "slap the Labour party around". She told BBC Radio 5 Live: "What I would like them to be particularly focusing on is taking the arguments as to why we should remain in the EU to people who voted to leave and to try to change some hearts and minds, rather than using it - as some people I think do - as an opportunity to attack the Labour party and the leadership of the Labour party."

A People's Vote spokesman said Thornberry was "badly mistaken" in her views about the campaign, adding: "What we are doing is highlighting the biggest poll on Brexit yet, which shows that Labour will suffer its worst electoral defeat since the 1930s if it continues promising to enable some sort of Brexit to go ahead.

"In that situation, it won't be us slapping the leadership but millions of Labour voters who want the party to fight for the public services, rights and living standards that will otherwise be hammered by any kind of Brexit deal."

vote against the deal. The DUP, whose 10 MPs are required to be on board by May to force through the deal, remain opposed. Dodds said the government must stand firm and set out a "resolute red line" to Brussels. "The coming days will show if this government is made of the right stuff," he said.

The government is also facing a serious challenge from a cross-party group of MPs seeking to block the government from implementing no-deal measures without the explicit consent of parliament.

Amendments tabled by Cooper, a former Labour cabinet minister, and Morgan, a former Tory education secretary, would restrict the government's freedom to make Brexit-related tax changes without parliamentary safeguards. The measure also has the support of the Tories Sir Oliver Letwin, Nick Boles and Sarah Wollaston.

Germany's foreign affairs minister, Heiko Mass, will fly to Dublin tomorrow for Brexit talks as they seek to find a fix to help get an agreement ratified.

An informed EU source said Brexiters should not get their hopes up of a renegotiation. The "fix" will be further details in the political declaration on the future relationship and not the 585-page withdrawal agreement. "That is locked," said the source.

The UK is due to leave the EU on 29 March.



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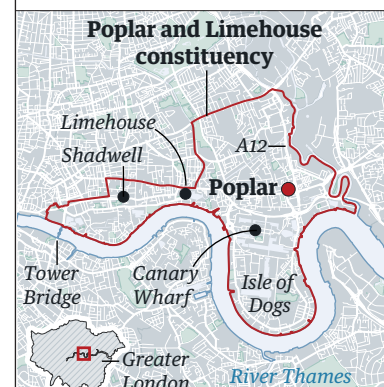
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**National
Brexit***'The government don't know what they are doing, and they probably should'***Millie Brooke**
Film student

11

**Constituency profile
Poplar and Limehouse**

Constituency
Poplar and Limehouse
Average age
27
Average house price
£321,500
Percentage non-UK born
45.4%
Member of parliament
Jim Fitzpatrick
Party
Labour
Intended vote on May's deal
"Inclined" to vote against, but respects result of the referendum
Referendum result
Remain (Poplar and Limehouse is part of the borough of Tower Hamlets, where 67.46% voted to remain in the EU)



Voices of youth 'Parliament has been like a soap opera, I'm not holding out much hope'



In the first of a series, we visit constituencies across the country to listen to young people's views on Brexit

Aamna Mohdin

Dominic Buxton didn't care much for politics at school, but he stayed up to watch the results of the Brexit referendum. Born in London in 1999, he migrated to Germany when he was three and moved back to London in 2015. When it was clear the UK had voted to leave the European Union, Buxton was shocked. "I never thought of myself as anything other than European," he said. "It was sort of like a large chunk of my identity was being stripped away from me."

With Brexit less than three months away, the future of young people such as Dominic has become one of the central subjects of the

debate - even if they are not always consulted. And in his constituency, Poplar and Limehouse, he is one of many who feel his voice is not being heard. The east London neighbourhood - which has a booming financial sector, a large student population, and just over half of its residents from a minority ethnic background - voted overwhelmingly to remain in the EU.

But its Labour MP, Jim Fitzpatrick, who campaigned against Brexit, has said he will respect the referendum. It's a decision that has dismayed some younger constituents.

"As an MP, Jim Fitzpatrick's immediate concern should be listening to the wishes of his constituents," Buxton said, adding his area had far too much to lose from leaving the trading bloc. He joined the Liberal Democrats soon after the referendum. Buxton, now 19, describes it as "the only party fighting for an exit from Brexit".

The European Medicines Agency and the European Banking Authority, both based in Canary Wharf, at the heart of Poplar and Limehouse, are relocating to other European cities. A recent study by Sussex University on the economic impact of Brexit noted that Poplar and Limehouse would be the third

most affected constituency for potential job losses caused by a "no deal" Brexit - the area could lose 7,950 posts. Fitzpatrick said: "It provides me with a challenge and a great difficulty. But, as I said to my constituents, it wasn't a Poplar or Limehouse referendum, it was a national referendum and the vote is we're leaving the EU."

Fitzpatrick said he was inclined to vote against Theresa May's plan. He cited Labour's policy on Brexit: vote down May's deal, push for an election, and try to negotiate a new deal. Other options - including a second referendum - remain firmly on the table.

The MP said he was listening carefully to his constituents, adding: "I have to square the circle between the national decision to leave, the national interest, party politics, constituency interests and my own conscience." But Fitzpatrick is also under pressure from young Labour voters to keep the country in the EU.

Megan Corton Scott, who works part-time in Brussels for a member of the European parliament, said: "To every Labour MP who wants to push Brexit, I say the country did not vote for a Tory Brexit. Just because Theresa May's deal is the one on the table doesn't mean it's

the one we should vote for." A life-long Labour supporter, she said that while she understands the reluctance of people to come out for second referendum, "I don't think there's any Brexit that's a Labour Brexit." She backs a "people's vote".

Adam Allnut, 29, a Labour activist and a supporter of For our Future's Sake, a youth-led group backing the People's Vote campaign, has been lobbying Fitzpatrick to come out against Brexit, but he respects his MP and understands his dilemma.

"There's no such thing as a jobs-first Brexit because every form of Brexit destroys the economy," Allnut said. "I want a people's vote, I want to remain in the EU, I want Labour in government, but I also want food on the table and to have a job."

The economy weighed heavily on many young people's minds. Nathosh Wjendran, 21, a student at Queen Mary University of London (QMUL), said he did not understand

*'Norway works well. But I don't know how it will affect the relationship with other EU countries'***Maliha Anas**
Student

why people would want to leave such a large trade union, adding: "It will definitely take a major toll on business." Millie Brooke, 18, who is studying film at QMUL, said: "The government don't really know what they're doing with it and they probably should ... But they don't." She has resigned herself to the idea that Brexit will happen.

Her friend Maliha Anas, 19, a student from Norway, said she was happy with her own country's arrangement with the EU. "It works so well in Norway, it could work here. But then again, because the UK has been in the EU as long as it has, I don't know how it'll affect the relationship between the other EU countries," she said.

They all backed the campaign for a second referendum. Allnut said: "It should be between Theresa May's deal and remain. These are the only two options on the table." He said the first referendum was a vote between a known - staying in the EU - and the unknown, life outside.

He believes remain would defeat May's deal in a second referendum. "This vote is a known vs known. If people have those stark statistics, I don't think there would be much of a fight."

Corton Scott said that Brexit would be terrible socially and culturally. "For a long time the EU has been bankrolling the cultural face of Britain, but Brexit will make art even more reserved for the wealthy," she said.

The last six weeks in parliament had been like a soap opera, she said. "It's worse than I've ever imagined. I don't want to believe anyone wants to plunge this country in its darkest day, but I'm not holding out much hope."

← Continued from page 1

NHS plan seeks to save half a million lives over decade

that the plan will involve a massive expansion in the help available to people with mental health problems, as well as major improvements in other key areas, such as maternity services and care provided in or near people's

homes. Stevens last night outlined how the transformation of care would also see every child diagnosed with cancer given a genomic test, patients offered digital consultations with a GP and a huge drive to increase the early detection and treatment of disease.

The plans would lead to up to 500,000 more lives being saved over the next decade, through 85,000 fewer premature deaths a year, Stevens said. For example, from April the NHS will ensure that 85% of all those who suffer from heart failure take part in a "healthy living" programme.

Prevention of illness will also become a priority as a way of reducing the pressures on the service.

Genetic testing will identify those with high cholesterol. People who have had a stroke because of a blood clot in their brain will undergo a procedure, mechanical thrombectomy, which has been shown to greatly increase their chances of avoiding becoming disabled. There will be moves to make it easier to be tested for cancer as part of an attempt to improve Britain's poor record on early diagnosis.

"This is a pragmatic plan with an

ambitious vision to improve NHS care, but making it a reality will be extremely tough, given growing pressures on services, widespread staff shortages and continued cuts to other parts of the health and care system," said Dr Jennifer Dixon, chief executive of the Health Foundation thinktank.

She highlighted the growing NHS-wide shortage of nurses, doctors and almost every other type of health professional as a particular danger. "The NHS is already short of 100,000 doctors, nurses and other staff. While there are initiatives in the plan to

build the workforce, they need to be matched with action from central government to secure training budgets and a supportive migration policy to allow international recruitment."

Nigel Edwards, chief executive of the Nuffield Trust, said that improvements in care may come to a halt because the extra funding "is enough [for the NHS] to move forwards, but with little room for manoeuvre. If we face a no-deal Brexit, the extra costs and tasks required would eat up the first instalments, stopping progress dead in its tracks."

The NHS 10-year plan

Where will the extra funding be allocated?

Cancer A renewed drive to extend survival from cancer by improving early diagnosis will include an overhaul of screening programmes, new investment in diagnostic technology and extra funds for research and innovation. New tests for bowel cancer will be extended, along with mobile lung cancer screening units and rapid diagnostic centres which give same-day results. The age at which people are offered bowel cancer screening will fall from 60 to 50. These measures are aimed at increasing the number of people diagnosed with cancer when it is at stage one or two. Currently, 52% of the 10 commonest cancers are diagnosed at stages one and two. Ministers want this to reach 75% by 2028.

Mental health About 2m more people who suffer from a mental health condition such as anxiety or depression could benefit from at least £2.3bn of extra funding being invested in the sector by 2023-24. An estimated 350,000 more children and young people will be treated and 380,000 more adults will be offered access to "talking therapies" over the next five years. There will be new support teams in schools and an NHS helpline directing callers to support around the clock as mental health services undergo the biggest overhaul of any area of NHS care.

Primary care NHS England plans to put an extra £4.5bn into out-of-hospital services to help keep patients as healthy as possible at home for as long as possible and avoid potentially unnecessary spells in already overcrowded hospitals. This major expansion of primary care and community services is central to reducing the burden on hospitals, which are struggling to cope with the rising demand for care created by the ageing and growing population. New "24/7 rapid response teams" made up of doctors, nurses and physiotherapists will give patients urgent care and support in the community as an alternative to hospital.

Alcohol The NHS will be making much greater efforts to persuade heavy drinkers who end up in hospital to reduce their alcohol intake. It plans to set up new alcohol care teams in 50 hospitals where nurses and doctors will adopt a more interventionist approach. People will receive "personalised feedback"

about how risky their drinking is and advice about how to drink less. The NHS hopes rolling out these teams will prevent 50,000 hospital admissions involving 250,000 bed days over the next five years.

Smoking NHS staff will encourage all smokers who become a hospital inpatient, or patients in mental health or learning disabilities units, to quit. Nurses and doctors will talk to them about their smoking and suggest they try the NHS's stop smoking services. The initiative will particularly target mothers-to-be who are still smoking despite their pregnancy and encourage their partners to give up, too.

Childbirth Matt Hancock, the health and social care secretary, has promised that by March 2021 "the majority of women in England" will have one named midwife to guide and support them through their pregnancy, labour and after their baby has been born. Research has shown that pregnant women who experience this continuity of care are less likely to have a miscarriage, lose their baby or have a premature birth. Women from black and minority ethnic backgrounds and poorer families will be given priority when the scheme is rolled out from later this year. The NHS will also expand the number of staff working in neonatal units looking after sick babies, especially specialist neonatal nurses. New parents will also get extra mental health support.

Diabetes From April, tens of thousands of people with type 1 diabetes will be able to get a wearable sensor called a Freestyle Libre on prescription from their GP to help manage their condition. Only a few of England's 300,000 sufferers from the disease use the device, which is about the size of a £2 coin and is strapped to the upper arm. It reduces the need for patients to give themselves what the NHS admits are inconvenient and sometimes painful fingerprick blood tests. The sensor helps by relaying the patient's blood glucose level to a smartphone or e-reader. The NHS England chief executive, Simon Stevens, says: "In the NHS of the future, for many conditions you're going to get NHS support direct from your smartphone or wearable device rather than having to trek to regular hospital outpatient appointments."

Denis Campbell

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Theatre review

Delight of hidden links and exemplary acting

Pinter Five and Six

Harold Pinter theatre, London

★★★★★

Michael Billington

One of the great pleasures of this season of Pinter's shorter plays is that it reveals unexpected links. *The Room* (1957) and *Family Voices* (1981) are not only separated by time. The former was written for Bristol students, the latter for BBC radio. Yet seeing them together in Patrick Marber's production, as part of Pinter Five, you realise they are both about reclusive figures dealing with the demands of family.

For all the tonal variety of Pinter's plays, there is an extraordinary

imaginative unity. What strikes one most about Marber's version of *The Room* is the pervasive fear. The fingers of Jane Horrocks, as the immured Rose, are forever nervously clutching the backs of chairs. Even Nicholas Woodeson, as her supposed landlord, seems paralysed by terror when he announces she has a visitor. When Riley (played by Colin McFarlane) turns up, the fact that he is black and blind unleashes even greater panic.

Yet Pinter once told me he saw Riley as a redemptive figure, and Horrocks's seeming surrender to his request to return home, as well as the way his stick resembles a shepherd's crook, gives the play a strangely spiritual quality.

The idea that one can never escape the claims of kith and kin also animates *Family Voices*. In Marber's bold staging Luke Thallon, as the son, vividly impersonates the eccentric figures in the Dickensian



lodging house he inhabits, including a highly sexual girl and a predatory guy named Riley. But when Thallon finally assures Horrocks, as his estranged mother, that he is coming back, one hears uncanny echoes of *The Room*. Nostalgia, in the original sense of a return home, is the key to both works.

They are teamed with a hilariously macabre revival of *Victoria Station* (1982), in which McFarlane gives a brilliant display of baffled rage as the controller of a minicab firm desperately trying to communicate with Rupert Graves as a wayward driver.

The idea that Pinter's plays are

A pervasive fear is what strikes one most about Patrick Marber's production of *The Room*

▲ Jane Horrocks as Rose and Luke Thallon as the son in *The Room*. Below, Colin McFarlane as Riley

PHOTOGRAPHS: MARC BRENNER



full of hidden connections is richly confirmed by the works in Pinter Six. I once paired *Party Time* (1991) with *Celebration* (2000) in a drama school production, partly because each had nine characters. But Jamie Lloyd's revival reminds us they are even more strongly riveted because both are about the insulation from reality of the super-rich.

Party Time is the more overtly political in that a group of wealthy materialists rattle on about their new health club, seemingly oblivious to the roundup of dissidents on the streets outside. As staged by Lloyd, with the characters lined up facing the audience, it resembles a cocktail party from hell. *Celebration* is much wilder and funnier in its exposure of the coarseness of a group of rich diners in a posh London restaurant.

Lloyd pushes it to the limits, creating an air of drunken frenzy. There are exemplary performances by Ron Cook as the rampantly misogynist host, John Simm as an oily banker and Katherine Kingsley as his mutinous wife. But Abraham Popoola, who plays a tortured victim in *Party Time*, reappears as an interventionist waiter, reminding us that there is a world elsewhere and that Pinter's plays are all cut from the same imaginative cloth.

Until 26 January. Pinter at the Pinter runs until 23 February

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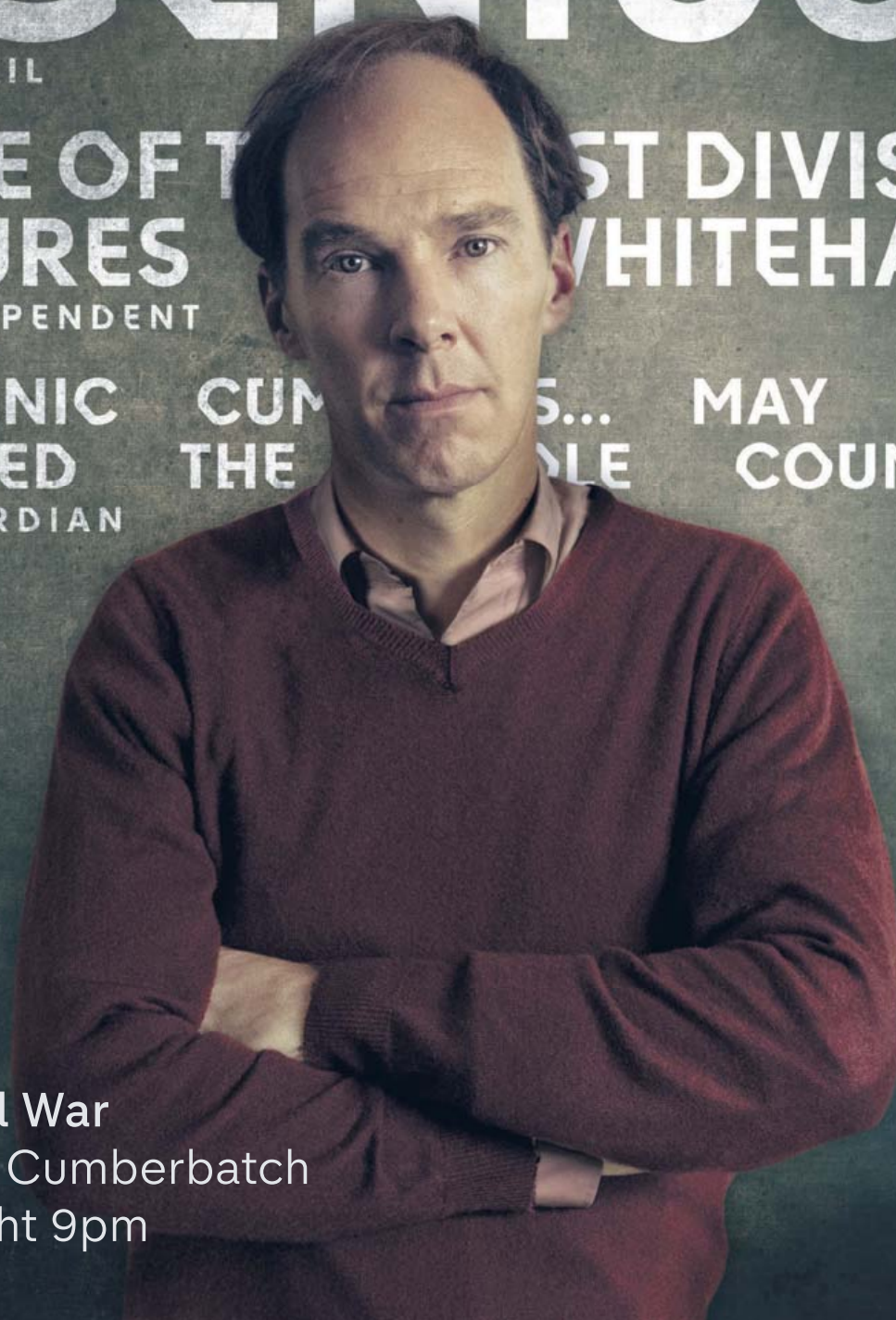
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Beckham's menswear label doffs caps to Peaky Blinders

Lauren Cochrane

Kent & Curwen, the London brand part-owned by David Beckham, yesterday unveiled its latest collection – including a collaboration with the BBC drama *Peaky Blinders*.

Alongside his wife, Victoria, son Brooklyn and mother, Sandra, the former footballer watched the show. It included frock coats, tailoring and that Shelby staple, the flat cap. Gordon Ramsay and Dior Homme designer Kim Jones were also in attendance and both Beckham men wore the *Peaky Blinders* headgear.

After the show, David Beckham – dressed in a camel coat and cosy knit – said he was excited by the *Peaky Blinders* collaboration because he is “a big fan of the show, and our brand has always been about the look. It keeps that authenticity.” As for the family show of support at the launch, he said: “I always think these days are celebrations everyone can be part of.”

He said the flat cap had a family connection. “I got that from my granddad,” Beckham said. “I wore his from a very young age. Brooklyn has taken it on as well.”

The show was the second Kent & Curwen has presented at London fashion week men's, the biannual menswear showcase in the capital. The collection, designed by creative director Daniel Kearns, continued on the theme of British classics.

It was strong, and had a prewar influence without straying into the costume department. This is a well-pitched balance that works for young men of Brooklyn's generation, who like their retro references in Insta-friendly bites. The rugby shirts, Crombie coats, argyle sweaters and striped mod-like



Kent & Curwen's collection had a strong prewar influence without crossing the line into costume



'I get the flat cap connection from my grandfather. Brooklyn has taken it on as well'

David Beckham

◀ David Beckham and his son Brooklyn arrive at the Kent & Curwen show in London yesterday. Above, Cillian Murphy as Thomas Shelby in *Peaky Blinders*

skinny suits, all in a prep school palette of forest green, ivory and claret, could form wardrobe staples. The bright red socks, a tribute to the brand's founder, Eric Kent, brought the required touch of irreverence.

As well as working with Kent & Curwen, Beckham has also been ambassadorial president for the British Fashion Council since May 2018. “I'm really proud of my involvement,” he said. “It's so inspiring to see these talented young designers. My role has been even more enjoyable than I expected it to be.”

Kent & Curwen was founded in 1926 by Savile Row tailors Eric Kent and Dorothy Curwen. It has been in the fashion spotlight since 2016, when Beckham became majority owner. It has previously collaborated with the photographer Perry Ogden and the Stone Roses.

Other highlights from the men's shows yesterday included Chalayan and Cottweiler. Men's fashion week continues today with shows from Craig Green and A Cold Wall.

Pound coin will be rolled out to British territories globally

Press Association

The UK's 12-sided one-pound coin is “going global”, the Treasury has announced, as overseas territories and crown dependencies will be able to design and mint their own versions.

The coin, which was introduced in 2017 and boasts features designed to thwart criminals, has been described by the government as “the most secure of its kind in the world”.

The move means those living overseas may soon be able to spend bespoke versions of the pound coin, replacing the older coins now in use.

Many territories and dependencies have coins based on older versions of the UK currency and they will now have the choice of using the cutting-edge technology and design to protect their cash, the government said.

To produce their own 12-sided coin, they will inform the Royal Mint, which will ensure the same security standards are met before giving approval

and supplying them with the necessary blank or struck coins.

Features of the new coin to thwart counterfeiters include intermittent milled edges and the denomination and year date incorporated in micro-text on the coin.

It replaced the round pound, which had become vulnerable to sophisticated counterfeiters, with about one in every 30 in circulation being a dud.

The Treasury said the new versions were expected to feature images celebrating the heritage of the territories, with their history and culture pictured on the reverse side.

Ministers believe this will symbolise the close links between the UK and its territories.

Jersey, Guernsey and the Isle of Man

are crown dependencies. The UK's overseas territories include Akrotiri and Dhekelia; Anguilla; British Antarctic Territory; Bermuda; British Indian Ocean Territory; British Virgin Islands; Cayman Islands; Falkland Islands; Gibraltar; Montserrat; St



The coin is designed to thwart forgers

Helena and dependencies; Turks and Caicos Islands; Pitcairn Island; and South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands.

Robert Jenrick, exchequer secretary to the Treasury, said: “The Great British pound is internationally recognised and as we extend the new one-pound coin to our territories and dependencies, we will see new designs emerge that together symbolise our shared history. From the Falklands to Gibraltar, this move sends a clear message of our unshakeable commitment to our territories around the globe.”

Tariq Ahmad, minister of state for overseas territories, said: “This is an exciting opportunity for our currency to reflect the breadth and variety of the British territories.”

Union demands action to cut gender pension gap

Press Association

The gender pension gap in English regions ranges from 34% to almost 47%, research suggests.

A study by the Prospect trade union indicated that much of the difference

between men and women was in private pension income.

The gap was highest for workers in south-west England (46.9%) and lowest in the east Midlands (34.3%), Prospect said.

The average gap was 40% in England compared with about 38% in Wales and Scotland and 25% in

Northern Ireland, according to the union.

Sue Ferns, Prospect's deputy general secretary, said: "These figures show that the gender pension gap is a problem in every part of the UK and further demonstrate the need for action to address it."

"A low gender pension gap may simply be a result of relatively low levels of private sector pension income in that region."

"Clearly, low levels of private pension income are nothing to celebrate. It's important to tackle the gender

pension gap the right way, by measures that actually boost pension entitlement for women. One of the best ways of doing this is through better recognition of caring responsibilities in the pension system."

A Department for Work and Pensions spokesman said: "Our pension

46.9%

England's highest gender pay gap, experienced by workers in the south-west, according to Prospect

reforms are helping millions of women to a secure retirement, reducing the historic gender divide in pensions income.

"Through automatic enrolment the number of women in the private sector without a workplace pension has fallen from three in five in 2012 to one in five in 2017."

"We have also set out our ambition to remove the lower earnings limit so that contributions are made from the first pound of earnings to support those with low earnings and multiple jobs."

Spotlight put on death of conspiracy theorist

Esther Addley

The mother of a conspiracy theorist who died in unexplained circumstances in Poland after messaging her that he felt unsafe has said she hopes his inquest can fill in some of the "massive gaps" around his death.

Max Spiers was in Poland to attend a conference when he died suddenly at the Warsaw home of a friend and fellow conspiracist, having previously fallen ill with a high temperature, vomiting two litres of black liquid, a pre-inquest review has heard.

Days before he died on 16 July 2016, he messaged his mother, Vanessa Bates, in Canterbury, saying: "Your boy's in trouble. If anything happens to me, investigate."

But because Polish police were not informed about the death before his body was returned to the UK, it was not examined until more than a week after he died, when doctors in Kent were unable to determine the cause of death.

Speaking to the Guardian before the inquest, which resumes today, Bates said: "I want answers. There are certain bits [of the story of his death] that are easy to follow, and other key areas that have massive gaps."

Bates said that when her son's laptop and phone were later returned by the friend, a publisher called Monika Duval, his computer had been wiped and the sim card was missing from his phone, although it was later sent to her.

Spiers, 39, made his living by writing and speaking about paranormal and political conspiracy theories, and has become a cause célèbre among fellow conspiracists since his death, with intense online speculation over its unexplained circumstances.

At the time of his death, according to Bates, he was researching an organisation that he believed was involved in running a paedophile ring.

A controversial figure, he had previously claimed to have been the victim of a mind control programme run by

Britain and the US in conjunction with surviving Nazis, including an attempt to create a "superman" warrior.

Those who have similar beliefs have long claimed that UFO researchers are being killed by "men in black".

Shortly before his death, Bates said, "he had spoken to me, and he also sent me a message through WhatsApp saying: 'Mum, I don't feel safe.' He even used the words: 'I think I could be murdered.' And I said: 'What are you talking about?' And then he was not clear. Then he was ... 'Just know that if anything happens, investigate it.'"

She said her son, who had two children and was, according to reports, due to marry his girlfriend on returning to England, was "very, very charming", but that he had also suffered from depression as well as being a reformed heroin addict.

"In the three years before he went to Poland he was just fine ... he was completely clean. But again, I don't know what happened in Poland."

A Polish lawyer appointed by Bates has taken statements from witnesses in Poland, including Duval, and members of the emergency services. But she said she did not expect them to attend the inquest, despite repeated invitations.

"You get some questions answered and more questions thrown up - there are a lot of contradictions, direct conflicts."

She said she was not sure what she hoped for from the inquest, "except that I want there to be enough for somebody to say, yes, there's more to be looked at here. Because I believe there is."

A spokesman for Kent police said that while the force was assisting the coroner it was not conducting an investigation into Spiers's death, and referred further queries to the Polish authorities.

The inquest, at the Guildhall in Sandwich, is expected to last for four days.



▲ Max Spiers, who was in Poland, told his mother he was 'in trouble'

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Moment guns went silent in 1918 is brought to life at war museum

Caroline Davies

A rare graphic record capturing the moment first world war guns fell silent for the armistice will be brought to life by the Mercury prize-nominated brothers Field Music for two dramatic performances as part of centenary commemorations.

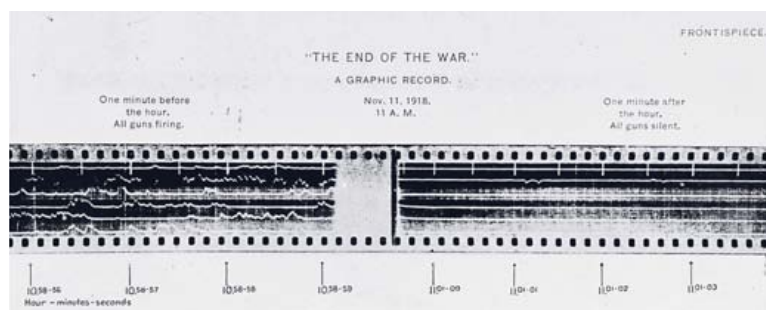
The Sunderland-based David and Peter Brewis have taken as their inspiration an Imperial War Museum document, *The End of the War*, one of the most memorable graphic representations in history, which records on photographic paper the minute before and after the cessation of hostilities.

The brothers, whose critically acclaimed albums include *Common-time* (2016) and *Plumb* (2012), will perform two sets – one at IWM London and another at IWM North in Manchester – this month based on their interpretation of the record, and exploring the echoes of the war through the century.

Before magnetic tape, the boom of huge artillery guns was recorded through “sound ranging”. Six microphones were placed in a curve behind the frontline trenches and a soldier near the front was given a button connected to a string galvanometer – an



▲ David and Peter Brewis (above); *The End of the War* recording (below); US troops during the Meuse-Argonne Offensive, 1918 (right); Ypres, 1913 (top right)



early detector of electrical current. Inside the string galvanometer, each microphone was connected to a thin wire that moved when that microphone picked up a sound. As each wire cast a shadow on to a moving piece of photographic film, a record was made of the sound received by each microphone.

This century-old technology means there is a photographic record of the guns at 11am on 11 November 1918. Modern technology has since allowed the artillery fire at the moment to be recreated in a sound artefact at IWM London, where listeners can hear the gun's vibrations through a special wooden elbow board.

Field Music were commissioned by the IWM to create a commemorative sound and light show. David Brewis said the sets had been inspired by the graphic record and sound artefact, which he described as “this tiny, incomplete fragment, not much more than a moment, but one which could be both the beginning and the ending of a huge story”.

He added: “What we have done is really try to capture the echoes of the First World War in all the time since. We have taken a lot of things, both visually and sonically, from the piece,” he added, explaining the two shows would involve animation and well as songs – some funny.

“We have looked at little stories, events, moments or technological advances which happened in the war, or immediately after, and drawn a line from there across the next 100 years”.

Their research including looking at the New Zealand-born surgeon Harold





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"This tiny, incomplete fragment, not much more than a moment, could be both the beginning and the end of a huge story"

David Brewis
Field Music

Gillies, who during the war pioneered facial plastic surgery and who went on to carry out one of the first gender reassignment surgeries.

They were also inspired by a small Wisconsin company that developed a new material for wound dressing, and after the war adapted the material for the first modern sanitary protection. The company was Kimberly-Clark, and its product was called Kotex.

"The spaces we will be performing in are so incredible and so intense," said Brewis, "so we have to be respectful to the gravitas of the stories those museums are telling".

The IWM North performance is on January 24 and that at IWM London on January 31.

Man held after woman found dead at house in east London

Mattha Busby

A 32-year-old man has been arrested on suspicion of murdering a woman at a home in east London.

Police were called to an address in the Isle of Dogs at about 6.20pm on Saturday after concerns over the safety of a resident.

The woman was found dead at the scene and a postmortem will take place in due course. Her next of kin have not yet been informed since the woman is yet to be formally identified.

Scotland Yard said the deceased, believed to be in her 30s, and the arrested man knew each other.

Police appealed for anyone who had concerns leading up to the death to come forward.

DCI Paul Considine said: "We are at an early stage in our investigation, but require the assistance of the public to help us piece together what exactly happened. If you heard or saw anything at the address that seemed out of place or of concern on Saturday 5 January or the days leading up to it, please don't hesitate to contact us."

The Met's homicide and major crime command are investigating.

▼ Pupils get the chance to play and learn about the environment and plastic pollution on the beach

PHOTOGRAPH: BEACH SCHOOLS SOUTH WEST



Teach on the beach

Eco lessons a breath of fresh air for pupils

Sally Weale
Education correspondent

On Bovisand Beach near Plymouth in Devon, the school day begins with morning assembly and a briefing about sea safety. The timetable will vary, but there will probably be a session on marine pollution and what you can and cannot put down your toilet, followed by shelter building, sand art, then lunch (in your shelter), followed by rock pools, a beach clean and finally stories and roasted marshmallows around a camp fire.

Welcome to beach school. After the success of the forest school movement, which has encouraged teachers to take tens of thousands of children out of the confines of the classroom to learn outdoors in a natural environment, there is a new push to teach on the beach.

For children growing up within

easy reach of the coast, there are growing opportunities to learn by the seaside. As well as studying the impact of plastic pollution and the beauty of coastal flora and fauna, the children learn about tidal forecasts, lunar cycles, ecology and geomorphology. They get fresh air, physical exercise, make friends and learn about team work.

Ali Murray, a beach schools practitioner working with Beach Schools South West, a small community-based company dedicated to outdoor learning, says: "We work with schools to take the curriculum to the beach. Our aim is to get children outside, off their bottoms in the classroom and out on to the beach - which they love. They learn in a completely different environment and they really do learn."

She works with schools across south-west England, particularly targeting those with high numbers of disadvantaged children who receive additional pupil premium



money which can be used to fund trips and enrichment activities, and takes them to the closest suitable beach whatever the weather, as long as it's safe.

Murray says some of the children she works with have never been to the beach before, despite living close by. "Every class I take, there are always one or two that have never been to the beach before," she says. "I find it really sad. It's such an amazing resource that's free."

According to a Keep Britain Tidy survey earlier this year, 18% of children have never set foot on a beach. The poll of 2,000 parents revealed they were put off by

the weather and concerns about cleanliness, litter and dog mess.

Yet when children do get to the seaside, they are captivated, says Murray. Her pupils have made Christmas trees out of driftwood and seaweed, with shells as baubles and marked Remembrance Day by painting pebbles the colours of poppies, leaving them on the beach in memory of those who died.

They are mesmerised, and horrified, by Murray's account of a dead whale washed ashore in eastern Indonesia that was found to contain 115 plastic cups, 25 plastic bags, two flip-flops, a nylon sack and more than 1,000 other assorted pieces of plastic.

"Children are absolutely passionate about collecting plastic from the beach," says Murray, who is delighted to work with this new generation of eco-warriors.

"They sleep better. Their appetites are better," she says. "They form amazing friendships outside the classroom and their creativity is

incredible." But she is worried about the impact of school funding cuts. "They are cutting down on teaching assistants and additional help for children with special educational needs. I'm worried it will become harder."

Anthony Rollinson, the assistant headteacher at Plaistow Hill infant and nursery school in St Budeaux, Plymouth, is sending small groups of pupils once a week to beach school.

Funding cuts are making it more difficult, he says, but the benefits are huge. "We try to take the children outdoors as much as we can. It's hugely motivating for them, especially the boys. There's so much of the curriculum that's learning about the world around us. To do it outside is very powerful."

Murray enjoys the feedback from the children. Keegan, a year two pupil, loved the experience. "I liked being nice to people on the beach," he wrote to her. "I liked being helpful on the beach. I loved reading stories by the fire."

'They form amazing friendships outside the classroom'

Ali Murray
Beach school practitioner

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Bookshops turn page as towns and cities see return of indies

Alison Flood

The list of bookshops that have disappeared from the UK's high streets over the last two decades is long and sobering: chains such as Ottakars, Books etc, Dillons and Borders – and more than 1,000 independents. But now a glimmer of hope: Booksellers Association figures reveal a growth in numbers for the second year in a row.

Until two years ago, the number of bookshops in the UK and Ireland had declined every year since 1995, when there were 1,894 independents. A low of just 867 shops was reached in 2016. A year later, the Booksellers Association predicted a reverse in fortunes.

Now, its latest membership numbers confirm it: the number of independents rose last year to 883. New stores range from Category Is Books in Glasgow – the second LGBTQ-dedicated bookshop in the UK – to the gloriously named Stripey Badger Bookshop in the Yorkshire Dales and Lost in Books in Cornwall.

"Independent bookshops are important because we're a refuge, and we're dead against everything becoming the same," says Daniel Ross from Storysmith, which he opened with his wife, Emily, in Bristol in October. "We decided to open because we believe in bookselling as an essential function of a community and real bookshops inspire a lifelong love of reading."

He says the store received "an incredibly warm welcome" from local people. "So many have come in and told us that it's exactly what the area needed. They all put their money where their mouths were in the run-up to Christmas and we had a very encouraging month of sales, better than we'd been anticipating."

In a separate BA survey, 63.5% of booksellers reported that customer numbers rose this Christmas compared with 2017.

Last summer, Sarah Brook and her



'Indies choose their own stock and can adapt to the local community. They treat each customer as an individual'

Sarah Brook
Brook's bookshop, Pinner

husband, Peter, left corporate jobs to open Brook's, a fully licensed bookshop in Pinner, north-west London, after finding inspiration in a "champagne book bar" on a US road trip.

"The local community loves having a bookshop and Christmas saw huge gift sales," says Sarah Brook. "It's an inclusive environment and lots of people come and have a drink on their own and browse the books. Indies are important because they choose their own stock, which can adapt to the local community. They

offer a personal service and treat each customer as an individual."

Amanda Davidge of Lost in Books agrees. "I think there is a definite desire by locals to support local businesses as a reaction to the big online suppliers," she says. "We have to work hard to make sure we can now keep the momentum going ... I think it is important to keep smalltown communities alive by providing shops that locals want and also a hub for people to meet and to encourage reading."

Many of the country's latest



▲ Linda Furniss is the owner of The Stripey Badger bookshop (above and left) in Grassington, in the Yorkshire Dales, one of the new independent bookshops

independents are completely new to the trade, drawn to bookselling because they see the need in areas without a bookshop. Brook, previously a human resources director, says such a shop had always been her dream: "When we opened, a friend of mine said, 'I can't believe you've actually gone and done it.'"

Elaine Sperber, who opened The Bookmark in Stockbridge, Hampshire, in 2017, has lived in the area for 14 years "and was amazed that there wasn't, and never had been, a bookshop in this lovely town".

Previously a television producer, she had long wanted to run a bookshop. "Since we've been there, so many customers from near and far have said how happy they are to have a small, curated, independent place where they can chat, browse and buy."

The new independents are original and innovative: at Vinyl Fiction in Manchester, Sarah Pregnall runs a spoken word event each month where writers can share their work and collaborate; at Storysmith, Ross goes the extra mile to encourage reading in his community.

"Just a few weeks ago, we were approached by a local primary school who had won a grant to restock the books in their classrooms, so we made a big deal of it – we got the kids into the shop, made them all hot chocolate, let them pick the books they wanted and then we delivered them the following week. It was chaos, but everyone loved it," he says.

"Some of them had never been in a bookshop before, and now we know they've started their reading journey in a really positive way."

With other new stores including Max Minerva's Marvellous Books in Bristol, The Snug Bookshop in Bridgewater, Somerset, and Top Hat and Tales in Faversham, Kent, Meryl Halls, managing director of the BA, said it was "extremely encouraging to see independent bookshops succeeding in 2018, demonstrating the creativity and entrepreneurship of booksellers in the face of difficult challenges".

But Halls is clear that booksellers are still "facing an increasingly challenging landscape across the UK and Ireland". Challenges she cites include unequal business rates burdening physical bookshops – last year, the BA complained to the Treasury that Waterstones in Bedford pays 16 times more in business rates per square foot than the nearby Amazon distribution centre – as well as "unfair" competition from online retailers.

She called on the government to "take the steps needed to protect the future of bookshops and their high streets, considering the concerns of retailers and booksellers so they can both flourish".

Scotland braces for gale force winds with freeze on way

Press Association

Gale force winds are forecast to bring misery to parts of Britain. A Met Office yellow weather warning has been issued for Scotland, meaning that very strong winds are expected to hit today

and tomorrow. The rest of the UK will remain largely cloudy, with patchy rain in the north.

The Met Office suggests that gusts of up to 75mph are expected and travel could be disrupted.

The warning reads: "Very strong winds are expected to affect northern and parts of eastern Scotland on

Monday and Monday night. Gusts of 65 to 75 mph are likely, particularly in the far north and north-east, before winds gradually ease from the west during Tuesday."

It means delays to road, rail, air and ferry transport are likely. Bus and train services will probably be hit, with journeys taking longer.

There could be delays for high-sided vehicles on exposed routes and there is also the risk of some loss of power, especially across Scotland.

Some coastal routes could also see large amounts of sea spray. A chill

could see temperatures of around -2C or -3C in Scotland tomorrow morning, while northern England, Wales and the central area will probably be just above freezing.

There may also be some freezing fog as Britain heads into Wednesday.

It could be a cold Wednesday

75mph

The strength of gusts likely in parts of Scotland, with travel likely to be disrupted and power lines hit

morning, with temperatures of -3C or -4C in Scotland and around -3C in places such as Blackpool, Manchester and the Lake District, while Newcastle may manage 2C to 3C.

Freezing weather and snow brought parts of central Europe to a standstill yesterday, with authorities warning of a high risk of avalanches on the northern side of the Alps.

Heavy snowfall in recent days has created dangerous conditions in parts of southern Germany, Austria and Switzerland and meteorologists warned of further falls today.

In brief

Comedy

Billy Connolly tells fans he is very much alive

Sir Billy Connolly has sent out a cheerful musical message assuring fans he is "not dead" following a BBC Two programme documenting his life with cancer and Parkinson's.

The comedian gave a frank update on his health troubles in Billy Connolly: Made in Scotland, and revealed on the show that his life was "slipping away". Connolly



reviewed his life in comedy and said he felt "near the end", although he insisted he was unafraid of what awaited him.

But in a less sombre message released on Twitter, he assured fans he was very much alive.

While strumming his banjo in what appeared to be his new home state of Florida, the Glasgow-born comedian and folk musician says: "Not dying, not dead, not slipping away. Sorry if I depressed you. Maybe I should have phrased it better." PA

▼ Tributes are left for Sean Fitzgerald, 31, who was shot in a police raid in Coventry on Friday

PHOTOGRAPH: AARON CHOWN/PA WIRE



Police

Two released after man shot dead in drugs raid

Two men arrested on suspicion of charges related to growing cannabis have been released following an "intelligence-led" raid in Coventry where police killed a man.

Sean Fitzgerald, 31, was shot on Friday evening. Friends paid tribute to him, calling him a "very good guy" and suggesting he was blasted in the back, but police denied this at a press conference.

Asked about the claims, Sue Southern, assistant chief constable, said: "From the information I have at this point, that is not my understanding.

"Body-worn video has been examined." A postmortem

examination is scheduled for today. West Midlands police said one of the arrested men had been bailed, the other released under investigation.

The raid, they said, had followed a "long-running criminal investigation".

The police watchdog, the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC), is investigating officers' conduct. An IOPC spokesman said investigators were not at the scene and would not comment on whether a non-police firearm had been recovered.

A West Midlands police spokesperson said: "Police have bailed a 26-year-old man arrested on suspicion of being concerned in the production of cannabis and released another man, also 26, under investigation as inquiries continue." Mattha Busby

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Radio

New station goes on air with Bowie celebration

A new national commercial radio station has been launched across the UK with a celebration of David Bowie.

Greatest Hits Radio debuted at 6am this morning, opening with Let's Dance by Bowie, who will be celebrated throughout the first week, which coincides with the first anniversary of his death.

The station, which plays the biggest songs of the 1970s, 80s and 90s, and targets 40- to 59-year-olds, will also be broadcasting two documentaries paying tribute to Bowie.

Presenters on Greatest Hits Radio include Mark Goodier, Simon Ross and Andy Crane. PA

Earnings

Workers in Glasgow enjoy biggest pay rises

Workers in cities including Glasgow, Birmingham and Liverpool enjoyed the biggest pay rises in 2018 amid increased competition for staff, according to a study.

Average salaries in Glasgow and Birmingham rose by 11.3% and 9.7% respectively to £35,100 and pay in Liverpool, Portsmouth, Southampton, Brighton and Manchester went up to about £32,000 after rises of from 4.2% to 6.6%, the employment website CV-Library said. Its chief executive, Lee Biggins, said: "There was a great deal of competition for businesses to attract and secure the most talented professionals, hence why certain cities have seen such a jump." PA

Dreaming big Baghdad prepares to become megacity

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In the spotlight Nantucket gets ready for Spacey court case

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World



Seeking justice for Jazmine Rashaunda Jarmon holds her granddaughter Parker Wallace, three, at a rally in Houston, Texas, for Jazmine Barnes, seven, who was shot to death nearby on 30 December while in a car with her mother and three sisters. Prosecutors said yesterday that suspects had 'shot the car by mistake' after earlier reports the attack had been racially motivated.



PHOTOGRAPH:
MELISSA PHILLIP/AP

National emergency order may be just days away, warns Trump

**David Taylor and
Martin Pengelly** *New York*

Donald Trump faced fierce criticism yesterday as he threatened to declare a national emergency "over the next few days" to allow him to build a wall on America's southern border.

As the government shutdown triggered by the president entered its 16th day, Trump threatened to take extraordinary action to bypass Congress, where Democrats are refusing to pass a spending bill that would give him \$5.6bn (£4.4bn) to build his wall. The House speaker, Nancy Pelosi, has called the wall "an immorality" and refused to fund Trump's signature election campaign pledge.

By declaring a state of national emergency, the White House believes it will be able to unlock money from other sources without congressional approval, although it has

given no specific details of the move. Adam Schiff, a Democratic leader on Capitol Hill, declared the idea "a non-starter". Speaking on CNN's State of the Union yesterday, the California representative said: "If Harry Truman couldn't nationalise the steel industry during wartime, this president doesn't have the power to declare an emergency and build a multibillion-dollar wall on the border. So that's a non-starter."

The 1976 National Emergencies Act grants a president powers to take unilateral acts in times of crisis. But it also outlines congressional checks, and with Democrats controlling the House an attempt to make such a move would be fiercely contested, potentially pitching the US into constitutional crisis.

Leaving the White House for Camp David yesterday morning, Trump claimed that many of the 800,000 federal staff who are either working

without pay or have been told to stay at home because of the shutdown "agree 100% with what I'm doing".

"I may decide a national emergency depending on what happens over the next few days," he said, insisting: "I have tremendous support within the Republican party."

As he boarded Marine One, Trump cited human trafficking and claimed that "there has never been a time when our country was so infested with so many different drugs".

"Everybody's playing games but I'll tell you this, I think the Democrats want to make a deal," he said. "This shutdown could end tomorrow or it also could go on for a long time."

The president's language on the nature of the wall has continued to shift. Yesterday he said: "The barrier or the wall can be of steel instead of concrete if that works better. I intend to call the head of United States Steel and a couple of other steel companies to have them come up with a plate or a design ... we'll use that as our barrier."

Asked if an emergency order was viable, the White House press secretary Sarah Sanders said: "Whatever action he takes will certainly be lawful and we're looking at every option we can. This is something the president takes incredibly seriously."

USS Cole terrorist killed

Donald Trump confirmed yesterday that the US military has killed Jamal al-Badawi, an al-Qaida militant wanted in connection with the attack on the USS Cole.

Seventeen US sailors died and at least 40 people were wounded in the October 2000 attack, in which suicide bombers almost sank the guided missile destroyer while it lay in Aden harbour.

The bombings foreshadowed the attacks of 11 September 2001, in which 2,977 people were killed in New York City, Washington DC and Pennsylvania.

Badawi was indicted in 2003 and charged with terrorism offences including murder of US nationals and military personnel. **Martin Pengelly**

Former New York Times editor rejects Trump praise in book row

Lois Beckett

The former New York Times editor Jill Abramson has accused Donald Trump of taking her words "totally out of context" after he tweeted that she believed the paper was biased against the president.

Tweeting from the White House on Saturday, Trump shared a version of Washington Times and Fox News headlines about Abramson's forthcoming book, *Merchants of Truth*, which suggested Abramson believed the Times was biased against him.

"Ms Abramson is 100% correct," he wrote, before seeking to justify his controversial attacks on the newspaper and other media outlets. "Horrible and totally dishonest reporting on almost everything they write. Hence the term[s] Fake News, Enemy of the People, and Opposition Party!"

Abramson was the first woman to be executive editor of the Times, filling the role from 2011 to 2014. She is now a columnist for the Guardian.

In an email to the Guardian, she wrote: "Donald Trump is echoing a piece on Fox News (surprise) that distorts and takes what I wrote totally out of context. Both the NYT and [Washington Post] have had superb coverage of the corruption enveloping the Trump administration, the best investigative reporting I've seen. My book is full of praise for both papers."

Merchants of Truth, which will be released on 5 February, recounts how four news organisations - the Times, the Post, BuzzFeed and Vice - negotiated the rocky transition to the age of online news. In a tweet addressed to Trump on Saturday, Abramson wrote: "Anyone who reads my book ... will find I revere [the Times] and praise its tough coverage of you."

The book includes Abramson's story of her time as Times editor, including her firing amid a dramatic public fallout. Abramson left following conflict with Dean Baquet, a deputy who replaced her as executive editor. In her book, discussion of Baquet's choices in steering the paper includes the words: "His news pages were unmistakably anti-Trump."

In an emailed statement, a Times spokeswoman said: "Every political administration complains about the scrutiny and coverage it receives from the free press. But our job is to seek the truth and hold power to account, regardless of who occupies the Oval Office. That is what we have done during the Trump administration, just as we did in the Obama, Bush and Clinton administrations."

Dreaming big

Hints of stability as Baghdad nears megacity status

Peter Beaumont
Baghdad

After an exhausting journey through Baghdad's vast and grimy suburbs, the pastel-coloured blocks of Besmaya Dream City rise up above the rushes just beyond one of the modern gates marking the edge of the city.

The orderliness of these dozens of towers – some lived in, some unfinished – is a shock in the otherwise chaotic jumble of low-rise cityscape. The residential complex is being built by a South Korean company, Hanwha, and will house 100,000 people once its delayed construction is complete.

Once through the security checkpoint, you find children at play in the quiet public areas between the blocks. Families sit and chat on plastic chairs outside a newly opened tea stall.

Dream City – aimed at the beleaguered middle class – offers one potential vision of the future as the population of Iraq's capital nears 10 million and the city prepares to join the ranks of the world's megacities. Baghdad is in flux.

Violence has dominated the city for much of the past 15 years, from the US-led invasion of 2003 and subsequent occupation to the years of sectarian bloodshed. That declined until a new resurgence of violence as Islamic State claimed territory in towns such as Fallujah and Ramadi, just a short drive away.

The dismantling of Isis's self-

proclaimed caliphate has prompted a renewed intake of breath. Bombs occasionally explode and tensions remain, but Baghdad feels more normal, vibrant even – despite the omnipresent “martyr pictures” of police, army and militia members who died fighting the group.

The Zawra amusement park is crowded with picnicking families, and wealthier areas such as Jadriya and Karrada are buzzing. On the streets, dandified young men in tailored jackets and drainpipe trousers sport towering pompadour hairstyles. Ground has been broken for a Central Bank building designed by the late Zaha Hadid and residents flock to the towering new Baghdad Mall with its shops and restaurants, marble floors and planters.

But Baghdad remains a profoundly damaged place. And for all its newness, Dream City echoes many of the city's continuing issues.

In her sixth-floor apartment, Baidaa Mohamed, a mother of two, is enthusiastic about many aspects of her new home, which she bought with a cheap mortgage after moving from the centre of the city.

With its own power station, Dream City has more regular electricity than most of Baghdad, which still suffers regular power cuts. Her new flat is quiet, modern and pleasant. “Here, there's nonstop electricity and piped gas, which means I don't have to worry about heavy cooking gas tanks, and continuous tap water,” she says. “But what's most important is that the children are safe. I have a kindergarten just across from us and it's free because it's public.”

Mohamed remains worried, though, not least by the impending transfer of management of her block from the South Koreans who built it to an Iraqi company.

The recent novel by Ahmed Saadawi, *Frankenstein in Baghdad*, contains a metaphor for the current state of the city. Like Saadawi's reanimated monster Whatsitsname – built from the body parts of victims of sectarian bombs – Baghdad has cannibalised itself to keep going.

Larger dwellings have been divided and subdivided by families to deal with the growing housing crisis, largely illegally. Squatter neighbourhoods have taken over old army bases from the Saddam Hussein era, even the old nuclear centre in Diyala. Districts once designed as utopian low-income housing projects have been built over.

The reality is that 15 years of

▼ *Dream City's orderliness comes as a shock. The complex will house 100,000 people when it is completed*
PHOTOGRAPH: SEAN SMITH/GUARDIAN



conflict have unstitched Baghdad.

Sitting like a cuckoo on the banks of the Tigris is the international zone, known as the Green Zone when it was occupied by the invading US forces. It is still a secure area, separate from the rest of Baghdad.

A drive around the city with Abdelwehab Alwehab, a professor of urban planning at the university, underlines Baghdad's problems. In one of the nicer neighbourhoods he stops to show where eight new dwellings have been illegally squeezed on to the site of a demolished house. Such practices are a persistent and growing problem in the city.

A little further on he points out a street appropriated and gated off by a government minister for his own use. “Unfortunately,” he says, “the last 15 years have really transformed Iraqi cities and Iraqi society, not least in terms of ethics and corruption.”

“Whatever the high hopes after the 2003 invasion, they did not materialise. Take transport. The approach to transport infrastructure here is basically nothing but patching up problems.”

As if to illustrate the point, we are sitting in one of Baghdad's interminable and inevitable traffic jams. The city lacks a mass transit system, and most travel involves long, fitful journeys by private car or minibus taxi.

“Baghdad's urban integrity was



In wealthier areas young men in drainpipe trousers sport pompadour hairstyles



'What's important is that the children are safe. I have a kindergarten just across from us'

Baidaa Mohamed
Baghdad homeowner

Baghdad's rapid development, these days, argues Alwehab, it is notable in its absence. Instead, privatised interests encroach on all areas of the urban environment, not least in the city's chronic housing crisis.

The stresses on the city from its growing population are nowhere more evident than in the city's illegal squatter neighbourhoods.

Jassim Hussein lives on the vast, abandoned al-Rashid military base. The 66-year-old, a former prisoner of war in the Iran-Iraq conflict, has extended part of a tiny concrete barracks building into a simple compound in the shadow of the Dora expressway. He has planted cacti for decoration. "I've been living here for 10 years," he says.

"I live here on my own. I used to work as a guard at a factory not far away that was owned by a Christian family. They gave me somewhere to live for me and my family. Then they sold up and moved to Australia, so I found this place to live."

Unlike some who have squatted on the old base, Hussein receives a pension for his army service, but it is nowhere near enough to pay rent. Despite Baghdad ranking near the bottom of global scales of livability, rental and house prices are rocketing.

Hussein's neighbour Akram Hamid does not have the benefit of a pension. He works as a day labourer for three days a week at most. Although he qualifies for a small amount of social protection, he complains that to register he needs to pay a bribe he cannot afford.

The anxiety around Baghdad's trajectory is not only confined to those at the bottom of the pile. It can also be found at the new studios of one of the most telling symbols of the city's latest attempt to reimagine itself - Radio One Iraq. Set up by the 32-year-old IT entrepreneur Ehab Attrachi, the station's playlist of western music has drawn suspicion from some conservatives, while becoming the soundscape for many of the younger generation.

"We started in 2015 when people were busy with problems in Iraq," Attrachi says. "The message was that we are going to stay after we get rid of Isis. We wanted to see things get better. We wanted to reflect a curiosity in other cultures - to be a bridge after Iraq has been isolated for so long ... to make a connection."

"I think Iraq today is very different to the Iraq of 10 years ago. People are starting to believe in being more open-minded."

Even so, Attrachi and his assistant, Ahmed al-Haddad, admit the city remains a tough place to live. Haddad says: "Everything here's a mess and I don't think the government is capable of doing anything about it."

fragmented," he says. "The city was divided into safe and unsafe neighbourhoods, [separated] physically behind high concrete walls. These neighbourhoods became cities within the city."

One visible result has been the mushrooming growth of Baghdad's huge malls. Inside, people shop and eat, safe from the threat of car bombs. In a city where summer temperatures reach the high 40Cs, the air conditioning is popular too.

Baghdad was not always like this. In the 1950s, in the pre-revolution era of King Faisal II, and then again during the oil boom of the 1980s, the city vied to regain its historical place as the centre of the Arab world. It attracted leading international architects and planners including Walter Gropius, Frank Lloyd Wright, Gio Ponti and Le Corbusier. Some projects were built, such as Le Corbusier's sports stadium and Ponti's Ministry of Planning, but others remained incomplete or never left the drawing board.

A series of masterplans to guide Baghdad's development were also produced, most of which foundered on the exigencies of Iraq's decades of crises, from revolution in the 1950s, through the Iran-Iraq conflict and the Gulf war of the early 90s, to sanctions on the regime of Saddam Hussein and the renewed violence of the last decade and a half.

If state intervention - under King Faisal and Saddam - once defined

◀ *Zawra park is popular with children, as is al-Shaab Olympic pool*

PHOTOGRAPH: SEAN SMITH/GUARDIAN

The next 15 megacities

By 2035, the number of cities with more than 10m people is expected to reach 48. Explore their stories at theguardian.com/cities

US withdrawal from Syria depends on safety of Kurds

Associated Press
Jerusalem

Donald Trump's national security adviser has said the US military withdrawal from north-eastern Syria is dependent on defeating the remnants of Islamic State and on Turkey assuring the safety of US-allied Kurdish fighters.

John Bolton said there was no timetable for the pullout, but insisted the military presence was not an unlimited commitment.

"There are objectives that we want to accomplish that condition the withdrawal," he told reporters in Jerusalem yesterday before heading to Turkey today, where he will be joined by the chairman of the US joint chiefs of staff, Gen Joseph Dunford. "The timetable flows from the policy decisions that we need to implement."

Those conditions, he said, included defeating what was left of Isis in Syria and protecting Kurdish militias who have fought alongside US troops against the extremist group.

Bolton's comments were the first public confirmation that the drawdown has been slowed. Trump had faced widespread criticism from allies of his decision, announced in mid-December, that he was pulling all 2,000 US troops from Syria.

Officials said at the time that although many details of the withdrawal had not been finalised, they expected US forces to be out by mid-January.

"We're pulling out of Syria," Trump said yesterday at the White House. "But we're doing it and we won't be finally pulled out until Isis is gone."

Trump's move, which led to the resignation of James Mattis as US defence secretary, has raised fears over clearing the way for a Turkish assault on the Kurdish fighters. Turkey considers the Syrian Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG) a terrorist group linked to an insurgency within its own borders. Bolton said the US was insisting that

its Kurdish allies in Syria be protected from any planned Turkish offensive, a warning he is expected to deliver to Turkey's president, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, this week.

"We don't think the Turks ought to undertake military action that's not fully coordinated with and agreed to by the United States," Bolton said. Trump, he added, had made clear that he would not allow Turkey to kill the Kurds. "That's what the president said, the ones that fought with us."

Bolton said the US had asked the Kurds to "stand fast now" and refrain from seeking protection from Russia or the government of Syria's president, Bashar al-Assad. "I think they know who their friends are," he added, speaking of the Kurds.

Jim Jeffrey, the special representative for Syrian engagement and the newly named US special envoy for the anti-Isis coalition, would travel to Syria this week in an effort to reassure the Kurdish fighters that they were not being abandoned, Bolton said.

Turkey's presidential spokesman called allegations that his country planned to attack the US-allied Kurds in Syria "irrational" and said that Turkey was fighting terrorism for reasons of national security.

In comments carried by the official Anadolu news agency, Ibrahim Kalin said the Kurdish fighters oppressed Syrian Kurds and pursued a separatist agenda under the guise of fighting Isis. He added: "That a terror organisation cannot be allied with the US is self-evident."



▲ John Bolton says Isis must be gone before the US military withdraws

Saudi women to get text when marriage ends

Agence France-Presse
Riyadh

Saudi courts will notify women by text message when they get divorced under a new regulation that took effect yesterday, officials said.

The move appears aimed at curbing cases of men secretly ending marriages without telling their wives. "Women ... will be notified of any changes to their marital status via text message," the justice ministry said. "Women in the kingdom will be able to view documents related to the termination of their marriage contracts through the ministry's website."

The move comes as Crown Prince

Mohammed bin Salman, the de facto ruler, spearheads a liberalisation drive in the conservative kingdom, which has some of the world's toughest restrictions on women.

In June last year, the kingdom overturned the world's only ban on female motorists. It has also allowed women to enter sports stadiums and is pushing for greater participation of women in the workforce.

But the kingdom has seen a wave of arrests of women activists in recent months in a crackdown on dissent. The country also faces criticism over its male guardianship system, which allows men to make decisions on behalf of their female relatives.

Yesterday, an 18-year-old Saudi woman held at Bangkok airport said she would be killed if she was repatriated by Thai immigration officials.

Pleading her case on Twitter, the woman - who wanted to seek asylum in Australia - said she was trying to flee her family, who subjected her to physical and psychological abuse.

Eyewitness



▼ Kalofer, Bulgaria

Bulgarians sing folk songs, wave their national flag and chain dance in the icy waters of the Tundzha river during an annual religious ceremony

in which an Orthodox priest throws a wooden cross into the river and the person who retrieves it is said to be rewarded with a year of good health

PHOTOGRAPH: AP PHOTO



Malaysia's king quits amid claims of marriage

Agencies

Kuala Lumpur

Malaysia's king has abdicated, royal officials said yesterday, ending weeks of speculation about his future.

The announcement follows a leave of absence by the head of state and rumours that he had married a former Russian beauty queen.

Sultan Muhammad V's decision marks the first time a king has abdicated in the Muslim-majority country since Malaysia gained independence from Britain in 1957.

"The National Palace informs that his majesty has resigned as the 15th king effective January 6," a statement from the palace said.

The palace did not give any reason for the 49-year-old royal's move but in the statement said that the king was grateful for the opportunity given to him by the council of rulers and thanked the prime minister and



◀ *Muhammad V was reported to have married a former Russian beauty queen*
PHOTOGRAPH: AP

government for their cooperation during his rule.

"His Highness has worked towards fulfilling his responsibilities entrusted to him as the head of state, serving as a pillar of stability, source of justice, the core of unity ... for the people," the palace statement said.

There had been a question mark over the reign of the king, who ascended to the throne in December 2016, since he took a leave of absence for medical treatment in November.

Muhammad V resumed his duties a week ago. Images purporting to show him getting married in Russia appeared on social media in December. The palace did not respond to requests for comment on the photos or reports of a marriage.

Malaysia is a constitutional monarchy, with a unique arrangement where the throne changes hands every five years between the rulers of the nine Malaysian states headed by centuries-old Islamic royalty.

Speculation had intensified about Muhammad V's future last week when the country's other royals reportedly held a special meeting.

The council of rulers is expected to meet soon to pick the next king.

The monarch's role is largely ceremonial, since administrative power is vested in the prime minister and parliament. But the monarch is highly regarded, particularly among the ethnic Malay Muslim majority, as the supreme upholder of Malay tradition.

Thousands stung as jellyfish 'epidemic' plagues Australia

Australian Associated Press

More than 2,500 people have been treated for bluebottle jellyfish stings in Queensland as the creatures swarm Australian beaches in record numbers.

Across the weekend 2,630 people were stung, with several cases of anaphylactic shock being treated by paramedics. Almost 1,000 people were stung in a matter of hours yesterday afternoon, with 476 bluebottle stings treated on the Gold Coast and 461 on the Sunshine Coast.

Jeremy Sturges, a lifeguard service duty officer, said it was an "epidemic".

"I have never seen anything like this ever," he said. "Not everyone reacts the same way, but there have been very serious reactions."

Unusually strong swell conditions pushed the jellyfish onshore, where they became clumped in their thousands along the shoreline. Lifeguards were forced to close several beaches.

Sturges warned it was not just swimmers who were at risk, with the jellyfish stranded along the tide lines still being very much alive.

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The Guardian
Holidays

Congo poll results postponed again amid rigging claims

Ruth Maclean

Election results in the Democratic Republic of the Congo were postponed again yesterday, with officials saying they did not know when they would be ready.

The country's electoral commission, CENI, said tally sheets were trickling in slowly, so it would not be possible to release the results as scheduled. Corneille Nangaa, the head of CENI, said: "We ask the nation to remain patient for the time it will take to consolidate all our data."

Opposition members and observers had warned that releasing the results late could be part of a scheme by the government to rig the election. Although the president, Joseph Kabila, could not stand again, having served his constitutionally-limited two terms, his chosen successor, Emmanuel Ramazani Shadary, is widely seen as a puppet, there to hold the reins until 2023, when Kabila can run again.

Late on Friday, Donald Trump said 80 US military personnel had been deployed to Gabon "in response to the possibility that violent demonstrations may occur in the Democratic Republic of Congo in reaction to the December 30, 2018 elections".

The US president said they were there to protect US citizens and the embassy, but also "in furtherance of United States national security and foreign policy interests". He added that more could be deployed if necessary.

On Thursday the US threatened sanctions against those who tried to undermine democracy or threatened peace and stability. The Catholic church, a powerful body in the DRC,

warned on Saturday of a possible uprising if the electoral commission did not release provisional results that "conformed to the truth of the polls".

Previously, it announced that there was a clear winner of the election and called on CENI to release the "true" results, signalling that Shadary had lost. Polling just before the election indicated that opposition candidate Martin Fayulu was way ahead.

A government spokesman, Lambert Mende, said the church could go to the courts if it was not satisfied with the results released by the electoral commission. "We're not in the Vatican here, we're in the Congo, and there's a law that determines how things are done," he said.

A host of irregularities and the suppression of voting rights were detailed in a Human Rights Watch report published on Saturday.

The group pointed out that many polling stations across Kinshasa had closed abruptly, preventing people from voting, while others opened late and voters had trouble using new electronic machines, thousands of which were burned shortly before the election in an alleged arson attack.

Observers were also blocked from many polling stations and armed men coerced people in North Kivu province to vote for Shadary, HRW said.

Ida Sawyer of the rights group called on South Africa to "exert serious diplomatic pressure" on the DRC leadership to ensure real election results were published.

The eastern cities of Beni and Butembo were not allowed to vote in the election - their poll will take place in March, after the announcement of the winner, disenfranchising more than a million voters.



PHOTOGRAPH: JIJI PRESS/EPA

Ready, set ... A Japanese schoolgirl, Sumire Nakamura, above, will become the youngest professional player of the board game Go on 1 April, aged 10. Go, thought to have originated in China, is a game of strategy played with black and white stones on a grid.

Poland closes 13 'escape room' venues after five girls die in fire

Associated Press
Warsaw

Polish officials have shut down 13 escape room entertainment sites over safety flaws and the prime minister asked people yesterday to report such lapses to firefighters and police after five teenage girls were killed in a fire.

Players in escape room games are locked inside a room or building and must solve puzzles and find clues that lead them to the key that will unlock the door. Regarded as an intellectual challenge, the games are highly popular among teenagers in Poland and other European cities.

Leszek Suski, the country's fire chief, said the escape room at a private

house in the city of Koszalin, where the 15-year-old girls died on Friday while locked inside a room celebrating a birthday, had no emergency evacuation route. They were the first known deaths in an escape room.

Firefighters found the victims' bodies after they extinguished a fire next to the locked room. Autopsies showed that the girls, who were friends from school, died of carbon monoxide inhalation. A young man employed there was admitted to hospital with burns.

Prosecutors say a leaky gas container inside a heater is the most likely cause of the blaze.

Jarosław Szymczyk, a chief of



▲ Police experts examine the scene of the fatal fire at a house in Koszalin

police, said people had previously posted critical remarks online about the safety of the escape room site, but local officials were not notified.

A 28-year-old man, who designed and ran the site, had been detained and would be questioned, Szymczyk said. An injured employee would also be questioned.

During a Roman Catholic memorial mass at Koszalin Cathedral, the bishop, Edward Dajczak, identified the girls by their first names: Julia, Amelia, Gosia, Karolina and Wiktoria. Public prayers were planned later yesterday in front of the house where they died.

The prime minister, Mateusz Morawiecki, along with Suski and Szymczyk, spoke after holding a meeting in which they discussed with other officials ways of improving safety at entertainment venues.

Morawiecki called the girls' deaths an "immense tragedy".

Since Friday, more than 200 of Poland's 1,100 escape rooms have been checked, revealing a number of safety flaws that needed to be immediately fixed. Authorities ordered the closure of 13 of them.

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▼ Old North Wharf on Nantucket: the Massachusetts island feels different from the rest of the US

PHOTOGRAPH: LOOP IMAGES LTD/ALAMY



Celebrity island Nantucket braces for Kevin Spacey trial

Josh Wood
Nantucket

The tiny, fish-hook-shaped island of Nantucket feels separated from America by place and time. There are no traffic lights. You won't find a McDonald's or any chain store ubiquitous across the US. In winter, the silence is broken only by church bells and the sound of a foghorn.

But today the silence will be broken when the world's media descend to cover the latest episode in the downfall of Kevin Spacey. The actor is due in the island's lone courtroom to be arraigned on felony charges of sexual assault against a busboy at a local restaurant in 2016. If convicted, Spacey could face five years in prison. He would also have to register as a sex offender.

The saga has brought the #MeToo movement, and all the attention it generates, to an island where many go to get out of the spotlight. Scions of business, owners of sports teams and faces familiar from TV all come here, among many others.

"Extremely wealthy people or famous people or high-level politicians are attracted to Nantucket for a variety of reasons," said Bruce Percelay, publisher of Nantucket Magazine. "But one of



them is that people don't care. This is not the kind of place where people go to guffaw over sightings of the rich and famous. We leave that kind of behaviour to the Hamptons."

For those who want to make a home here, the entry barrier is set high. According to the Inquirer and Mirror, the island's weekly newspaper, the median home price last year was \$1.8m (£1.4m). The average price sat at \$2.7m.

"We like to jokingly say that this is where the millionaires have to mow the lawns for the billionaires," said Renee Ceely, executive director of the Nantucket Housing Authority. "Because if you do own real estate, more than likely it's worth more than a million dollars."

Even visiting the island is out of reach for many: during the summer, rooms at inns run to many hundreds of dollars a night. There is one hostel, but visitors won't find any motels or popular chain hotels.

The exclusivity of Nantucket is enhanced by its seclusion, 30 miles off the Massachusetts coast. The only way on or off is by ferry or plane. The island has about 10,000 year-round residents, but that number can go up more than fivefold in the summer.

On an island where invisibility and seclusion are the main draws, the attention brought by the Spacey case is unwelcome to many.

Spacey was an outsider, just

visiting, when the sexual assault is alleged to have occurred. His accuser, however, is from a family with Nantucket ties. He is the son of Heather Unruh, a former Boston news anchor and a fixture on the island. In October 2017, as the #MeToo movement was born with sexual abuse allegations surfacing against the film producer Harvey Weinstein, Unruh turned to Twitter.

"The #weinsteinscandal has emboldened me - #truth time," she wrote. "I was a Kevin Spacey fan until he assaulted a loved one. Time the dominoes fell."

Days later, the actor Anthony Rapp came forward with allegations against Spacey, saying that when he was a 14-year-old child actor in New York, Spacey, then aged 26, tried to force himself on him. Spacey said he did not remember the alleged incident but apologised for "deeply inappropriate drunken behaviour".

In November that year, Unruh held a press conference where she said that her then 18-year-old son had been star-struck when Spacey showed up at the Club Car restaurant, where he was working. She alleged that the actor had bought her son alcohol and later had stuck his hands in his trousers, grabbing his genitals. She said her son fled the restaurant when Spacey excused himself to go to the loo.

Spacey has pleaded not guilty. To Percelay, like many on Nantucket, the case is not something to be welcomed.

"There's a presumed safeness to this island, unlike many places," he said. "You don't expect violations like the one that was [allegedly] perpetrated by Kevin Spacey. It just doesn't happen on Nantucket. This type of celebrity just doesn't fit the ethos of Nantucket."

Military police drafted in to tackle violence in Brazil's north-east

Associated Press
Sao Paulo

Attacks and fire-bombings swept Brazil's northeastern state of Ceara yesterday, despite the deployment of at least 300 members of the elite, military-style National Police Force to help bring an end to ongoing violence in the region.

The state's public security department said that buses and cars were torched and gas stations were attacked in Fortaleza, the capital, and in at least six other cities.

Police killed two suspects in a shootout. More than 100 people have been taken into custody since the violence broke out on Wednesday.

Brazil's newly inaugurated government ordered the military police to be sent to the state on Friday after a wave of attacks on banks, public buildings and vehicles.

While authorities said the motive behind the attacks had not been confirmed, officials believed they were revenge for the recent announcement of tighter rules governing the state's prisons and inmates.

Brazil's prison gangs are powerful and their reach extends outside the country's penitentiaries.

The federal Justice and Public Security ministry, now led by the popular former anti-corruption judge Sergio Moro, ordered the military police sent to Ceara at the request of Camilo Santana, the Ceara state governor, citing the "urgent" nature of the threat.

President Jair Bolsonaro, the far-right politician and former army captain who was elected on pledges to crack down on crime and give security forces a free hand against criminals, praised the move.

"The people of Ceara need help at this moment," said Bolsonaro, who was inaugurated on New Year's Day.

Authorities have said that the attacks were ordered by organised crime groups in retaliation for plans to impose tighter controls in the state's prisons.



▲ Firefighters douse a burning truck and car during attacks in Fortaleza

Larry Elliott US can't afford to push China into recession

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Financial

US and China's face-to-face talks seen as first step towards ending trade war

Lily Kuo
Beijing

US and Chinese officials meet today in the first face-to-face negotiations since a 90-day truce was declared in a trade war between Washington and Beijing, in the hope of ending a bruising confrontation between the world's two largest economies.

After failing to come to an agreement in December when Donald Trump and Xi Jinping met at the G20 summit in Argentina, both sides agreed to suspend tariff increases while holding talks on technology transfers, as well as intellectual property theft and cybercrime. If no agreement is reached, US tariffs on \$200bn (£160bn) of Chinese goods

will increase in March to 25% from the current 10%.

Trump said yesterday that China was under pressure to do a deal amid signs of a slowdown in its economy. "I think China wants to get it resolved. Their economy's not doing well. I think that gives them a great incentive to negotiate," he said.

Analysts said this week's talks in Beijing were unlikely to produce a breakthrough but could lay groundwork for an agreement that both sides appear increasingly eager to reach.

Chinese leaders are especially under pressure to end a trade war that is exacerbating an already-slumping Chinese economy in which exports, factory output and consumer confidence have all declined.

"China's slowdown is occurring

across the board, affecting almost every industry and region," said Scott Kennedy, a trade expert focused on China at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, a US thinktank.

"Resolving the trade war or at least finding some common ground with Washington will be needed to fully restore confidence."

The delegation, led by the US deputy trade representative Jeffrey Gerrish, does not include any top US officials from the administration, a sign the talks are a precursor to higher-level meetings.

China's economic tsar, the vice-premier Liu He, may travel to Washington in February and Trump may meet the Chinese vice-president, Wang Qishan, at the World Economic Forum in Davos later this month, according to reports.

"It promises to be the first time that the core of the agenda will centre around the problems caused by Chinese industrial policy and the need to marketise China's economy," said Kennedy.

"If they can make progress on identifying the key issues and narrowing in on the possible solutions, that will pave the way for Liu He to visit Washington in the coming weeks."

"Their economy is not doing well. It's a great incentive to negotiate"

Donald Trump
On China's slowdown

Key US exports including soya beans, corn and pork, as well as liquefied natural gas, are currently subject to retaliatory tariffs by China. China's industrial policy, which the US argues violates World Trade Organization rules, is likely to come up.

China is likely to raise the issue of Huawei, whose global ambitions have been thwarted by a US ban on its products. The arrest in Canada of a senior Huawei official, Meng Wanzhou, at the request of the US has spiralled into a diplomatic incident, which includes two Canadians still detained in China.

The head of the delegation, Gerrish, is likely to follow the lead of the US trade representative, Robert Lighthizer, one of the most hawkish members of the Trump administration.

Gerrish has previously described Lighthizer as one of his "incredible mentors".

Observers say that beyond reaching an agreement, a major sticking point will be over how to verify that both sides uphold it. Chinese officials have reportedly indicated a willingness to establish such a mechanism.



◀ Emily Blunt reprises the Julie Andrews nanny in *Mary Poppins Returns*, which has taken £30m in the UK in the first two weeks since its release

PHOTOGRAPH: WALT DISNEY/ALLSTAR

A Poppins sweetener for Britain as Disney spends £100m

Christian Sylt

Disney spent nearly £100m in the UK making *Mary Poppins Returns*, the sequel to the 1964 Julie Andrews classic.

The sequel, with Emily Blunt as the eponymous nanny, has grossed £30m since its release two weeks ago. The capital also stars in the film, with London landmarks used as backdrops for key scenes.

The exterior of the Bank of England

was used for the offices of the villainous banker, played by Colin Firth, and the finale takes place on the Big Ben clock tower. *Poppins* was made at Shepperton Studios in Surrey.

Movie budgets are usually a closely guarded secret but the costs of those filmed in Britain are consolidated in single companies that file publicly available accounts.

The production companies usually have code names to stop them raising attention when filing for permits to film off-site. *Mary Poppins Returns* was made by Cherry Tree

Lane Productions - named after the address where Poppins works - which is owned by Disney. Its accounts for the 17 months to the end of June 2017 show it had total costs of £98.6m and state that "the estimated final cost was forecast to be in excess of the budget".

Key costs include equipment hire, travel and props makers. Film-making also drives employment and the accounts show that it spent £9.6m on staff. The average number of employees was 158, not including the self-employed staff who make up the majority of personnel on a film shoot.

Morrisons to slash prices by 20% to defend market share against discounters

Miles Brignall

Morrisons has announced it is slashing the price of more than 900 products, as a week of retail trading updates is expected to show that Aldi and Lidl's low prices helped them win the Christmas battle between supermarkets.

City trading updates due this week from Tesco, Sainsbury's, Morrisons, Marks & Spencer and Waitrose - along with reports by big retail analysts - are expected to indicate that the German discounters continued to grab an even bigger market share.

Bradford-based Morrisons says today it will continue to defend its market share by cutting an average 20% off "store cupboard favourites".

Morrisons' marketing director, Andy Atkinson, said: "We're listening to customers who are telling us that their budgets will be stretched in January, so we are cutting every penny we can on the essentials that will help them feed their families."

Aldi said it would look at the price changes, but said it was confident that its stores "would still be cheaper to shop in".

Retail observers will be keen to know if Morrisons and the other traditional supermarkets have been able to hold on to customers in the face of huge pressure from their German rivals.

Morrisons, Sainsbury's and Tesco are due to reveal their Christmas results tomorrow, Wednesday and Thursday respectively.

Analysis

Larry Elliott

To the moon and back: even Trump knows he can't afford to push China into recession

It was a wake-up call for the US. Convinced that it was a world leader in the knowledge economy, Washington was shaken out of its complacency when its communist rival announced a breakthrough in space exploration.

More than six decades separates the launch in 1957 by the Soviet Union of Sputnik - the first artificial satellite - and China's success last week in being the first country to land a spacecraft on the far side of the moon, but the same question is posed by the two events: is American economic hegemony at risk? In the late 1950s the answer



Xi Jinping blinked first in the tariff war with Donald Trump

was no, although many Americans thought otherwise. Congress declared a national education emergency, federal funding for science was tripled and President Dwight Eisenhower paved the way for the Apollo moon landings by setting up the National Aeronautics and Space Administration - now better known as Nasa.

Eventually, the US stopped panicking. The Soviet Union had a good, basic education system, excellent scientists and was globally competitive in some specific manufacturing sectors, but its command economy was incapable of delivering the living standards enjoyed in the capitalist west. Economic sluggishness brought about its collapse little more than 30 years after the launch of Sputnik.

China poses a much more realistic threat. For a start, it has posted four decades of staggeringly high growth, which has resulted in rapid improvements in living standards and victory in the battle against extreme poverty.

What's more, the caricature of China as a country that just makes cheap goods for the west is out of date. In some areas of the digital economy - e-commerce and mobile payments, for example - China is

a world leader. The authorities in Beijing have ambitious plans for artificial intelligence and the use of big data.

While the US still leads the way in the knowledge economy, China comes second in terms of research and development spending and, mindful of the pollution affecting its cities, has been investing impressively large sums in green technologies.

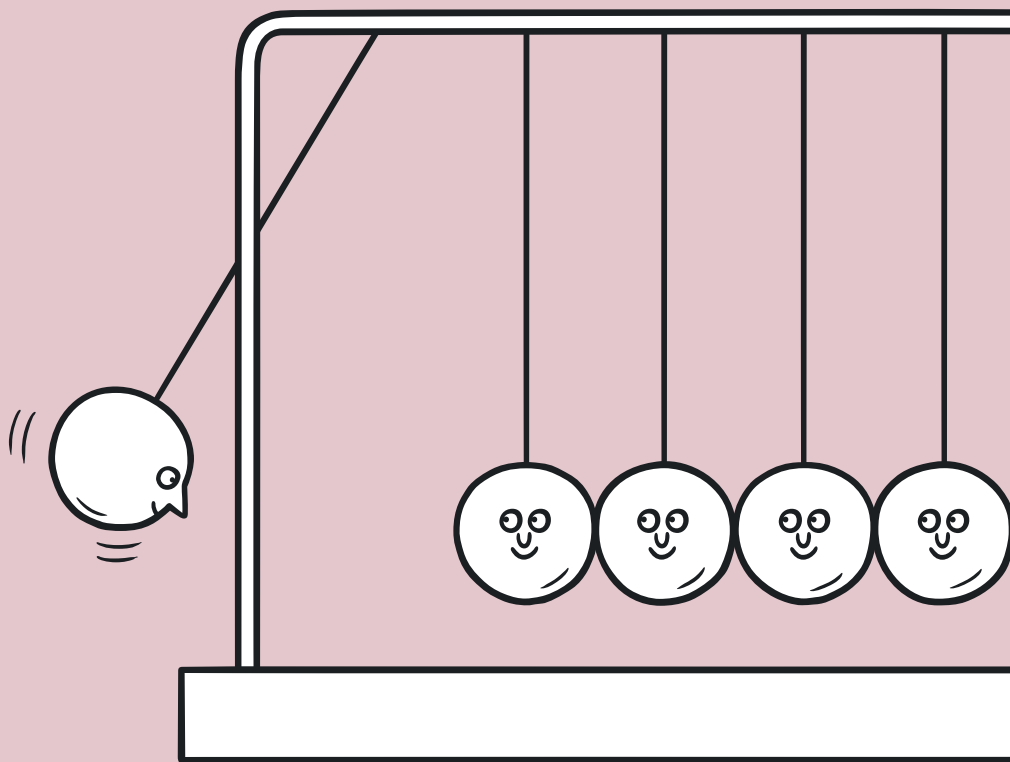
China has also developed in its own way. Liberalisation has been slow and careful. The state is firmly in charge of economic management. The overall approach is top-down, authoritarian and target-driven. One reason that the country is making progress in big data is that little heed is paid to the rights of the individual to privacy when collecting information.

Sooner or later China was bound to lock horns with the US. The world's most populous country is fast-growing; it wants to compete in cutting-edge technologies; it has a rival ideology; and, despite regular predictions of impending doom, it shows no sign of a Soviet Union-style collapse.

Washington has long seen Beijing as an economic, political and military rival, but it has taken



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SFO case against Barclays executives charged over 2008 fundraising begins

Kalyeena Makortoff
Banking correspondent

The trial of former Barclays executives begins this week over charges brought by the Serious Fraud Office arising out of a £12bn rescue package secured from investors including Qatar at the height of the financial crisis.

The case will see former chief executive John Varley, investment banking chief Roger Jenkins, Barclays Wealth boss Thomas Kalaris and European financial institutions head Richard Boath face charges over conspiracy to commit fraud relating to the 2008 capital raising. All have pleaded not guilty.

It is part of the first criminal case pursuing senior bankers for events surrounding the financial crisis. But the trial, which is expected to last at least 12 weeks and is scheduled to begin at Southwark crown court in London today, puts the SFO's reputation on the line, after two high-profile cases were scrapped in the past year.

Charges against former Tesco executives accused of masterminding a major accounting scandal were thrown out last month after a judge deemed the case too weak to face a jury. It also saw its case against Barclays - separate to the case against the ex-bosses - over the Qatar fundraising dismissed.

The SFO's original charges against Barclays and the former executives



► From top, former CEO John Varley, investment chief Roger Jenkins, Barclays Wealth head Thomas Kalaris and European institutions boss Richard Boath

▼ *China sends far more goods to the US than come back and cannot afford to be frozen out of America*

PHOTOGRAPH: MARK RALSTON/AFP/GETTY IMAGES



the arrival of Donald Trump in the White House to bring those fears to the surface. The tit-for-tat tariff war launched by the US last year is about far more than trade.

China badly wants to de-escalate the tension. Its economy has clearly been slowing and it is able to hit official growth targets of 6%-plus only by counting wasteful investment. Stripped of the creative accounting, the economy's trend growth rate is around 3%.

The aim is to steer the economy away from its dependency on investment and exports, but this is proving hard to achieve.

China's fast growth over the past four decades has been based on moving the population out of low-productivity jobs in agriculture into higher productivity jobs in manufacturing - a process that can only happen once and is now over. Transition to a consumer-led, service-driven economy requires some short-term pain: unprofitable enterprises going bust, factories closing down and unemployment rising.

Xi Jinping, China's strongman leader, certainly does not want his authoritarian rule threatened by economic and social unrest, so every time growth slows down Beijing

tightens political control while simultaneously using lower interest rates, easier credit, tax cuts and higher public investment to boost growth. This helps stabilise the economy but at the cost of keeping alive an economic model that the authorities know has to change.

In his book on China, the economist George Magnus questions whether it is possible for a one-party state such as China to make the switch from an economy where the government makes all the key decisions to one that encourages the development of new ideas.

"Behind a wall of censorship, a surveillance state is developing rapidly that may be very effective at gathering information but also quite stifling in terms of creativity and disruption - phenomena in which the west has traditionally enjoyed strong advantages," he writes.

The monetary stimulus provided last year had little effect and exports growth is sagging as a result of

3%

The trend growth in China, which can hit its 6%-plus target only by counting wasteful investment

slower global growth and American protectionism. That explains why high-level talks to end the US-China trade conflict are taking place in Beijing this week.

Xi has blinked first in the standoff with Trump by offering easier access to the Chinese market for US exporters, because the American market is much more important for China than the Chinese one is for the US.

Ultimately, the US can get the goods it currently sources in China from elsewhere. For its part, China simply cannot afford to be frozen out of the US market.

That said, the US president also seems keen that this week's talks succeed and not just because protectionism hurts the US as well as China. It is also because China matters in a way that the Soviet Union never did. The recession in Russia that followed the collapse of communism was deep but essentially a regional affair.

A full-blown recession in China, as Trump is aware, would have profound implications for the US and the rest of the global economy.

Red Flags: Why Xi's China is in Jeopardy, by George Magnus, is published by Yale University Press

followed a five-year investigation into the details of the rescue package, secured more than a decade ago. The cases relate to the £12bn rescue by investors including Qatar Holdings in 2008 that helped Barclays avoid a government bailout during the banking crash. The investigation centred on a subsequent \$3bn (£2.3bn) loan to state-owned Qatar Holdings, allegedly used to buy Barclays shares in what the SFO says amounted to unlawful financial assistance.

The charges against the executives were first made public in 2017, with Varley losing two major board positions following the SFO's announcement. The 62-year-old stepped down from the board of asset manager BlackRock that summer and was also replaced as chairman of Marie Curie Cancer Care.

Varley was a Barclays stalwart, having joined the bank in 1982. He had close familial ties with the bank after marrying Carolyn Pease, whose Quaker family sold their own bank to Barclays in the early 1900s. He was chief executive from 2004 to 2010.

Jenkins, once believed to be Britain's highest-paid banker, earning £40m a year, set up the bank's controversial tax advisory business. He left Barclays in 2009.

Kalaris left in 2013, but went on to co-found wealth management firm Saranac Partners three years later. Boath stayed until 2016 but claimed he was unfairly dismissed by the bank over an interview he gave to the SFO during its investigation into the Qatar deal. The employment tribunal is on hold until the criminal case is settled.

Barclays still faces the threat of a £1.5bn civil case this year. The case is being brought by Amanda Staveley through her firm PCP Capital Partners, alleging fraudulent misrepresentation and deceit over the terms given to potential investors of the emergency fundraising. Barclays said in its annual report that it plans to defend itself against the claim, with the trial expected to start in October.

Businessman pays £20,000 for roadside ads attacking RBS for company loss

Kalyeena Makortoff

A critic of Royal Bank of Scotland's disgraced restructuring unit has spent £20,000 on a billboard berating it as part of efforts to reinstate an investigation into wrongdoing.

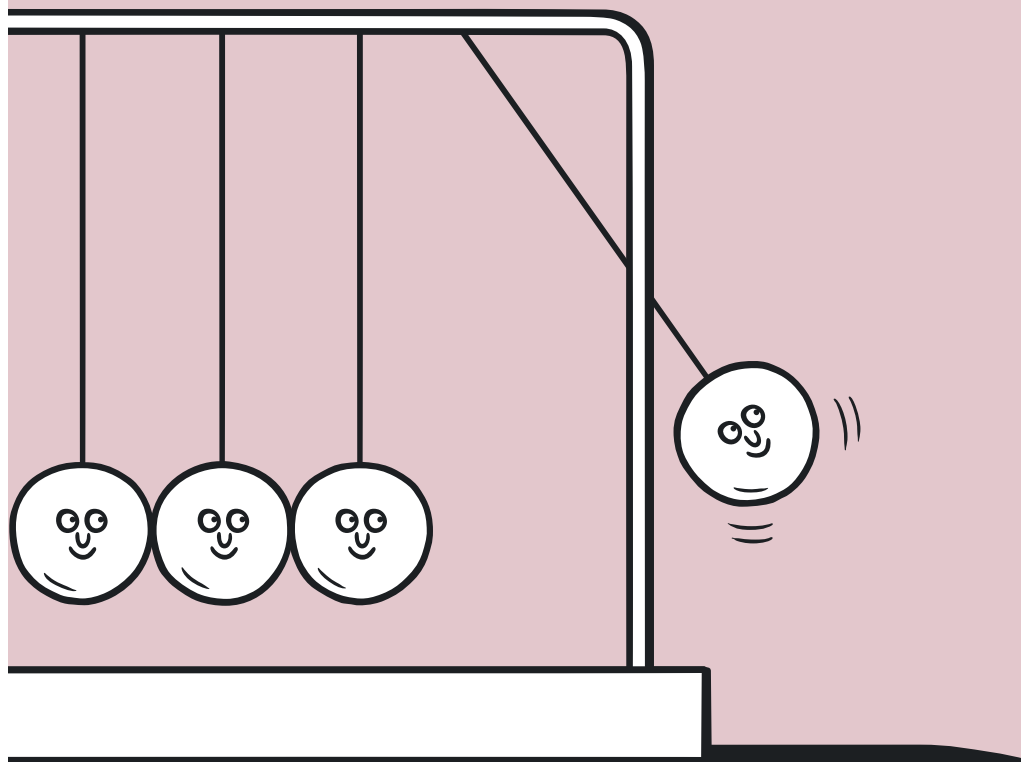
Neil Mitchell is paying £5,000 a month for a billboard on the A23 in Croydon, south London, in an effort to bolster support for his legal challenge. The billboard, designed as a newspaper front page, alleges RBS caused austerity, suicides and "economic destruction". The word "suicide" references an internal memo in which staff were told to let businesses "hang themselves".

Mitchell, a former chief executive of the software company Torex Retail, said the billboard was booked until December, with an option to extend to the whole of 2020. "I have other billboard designs drafted and am looking at the possibility of other sites - especially in Edinburgh," he said.

He has filed a legal application in the hope of forcing the Financial Conduct Authority to overturn a decision last year that allowed RBS and senior managers to escape disciplinary action over the mistreatment of small and medium-sized business customers at its now-defunct global restructuring group. The watchdog said actions by GRG ultimately fell outside its jurisdiction, as commercial lending is unregulated in the UK.

Mitchell claims GRG conspired to push Torex into administration before selling it off at a discount price in 2007. RBS declined to comment.

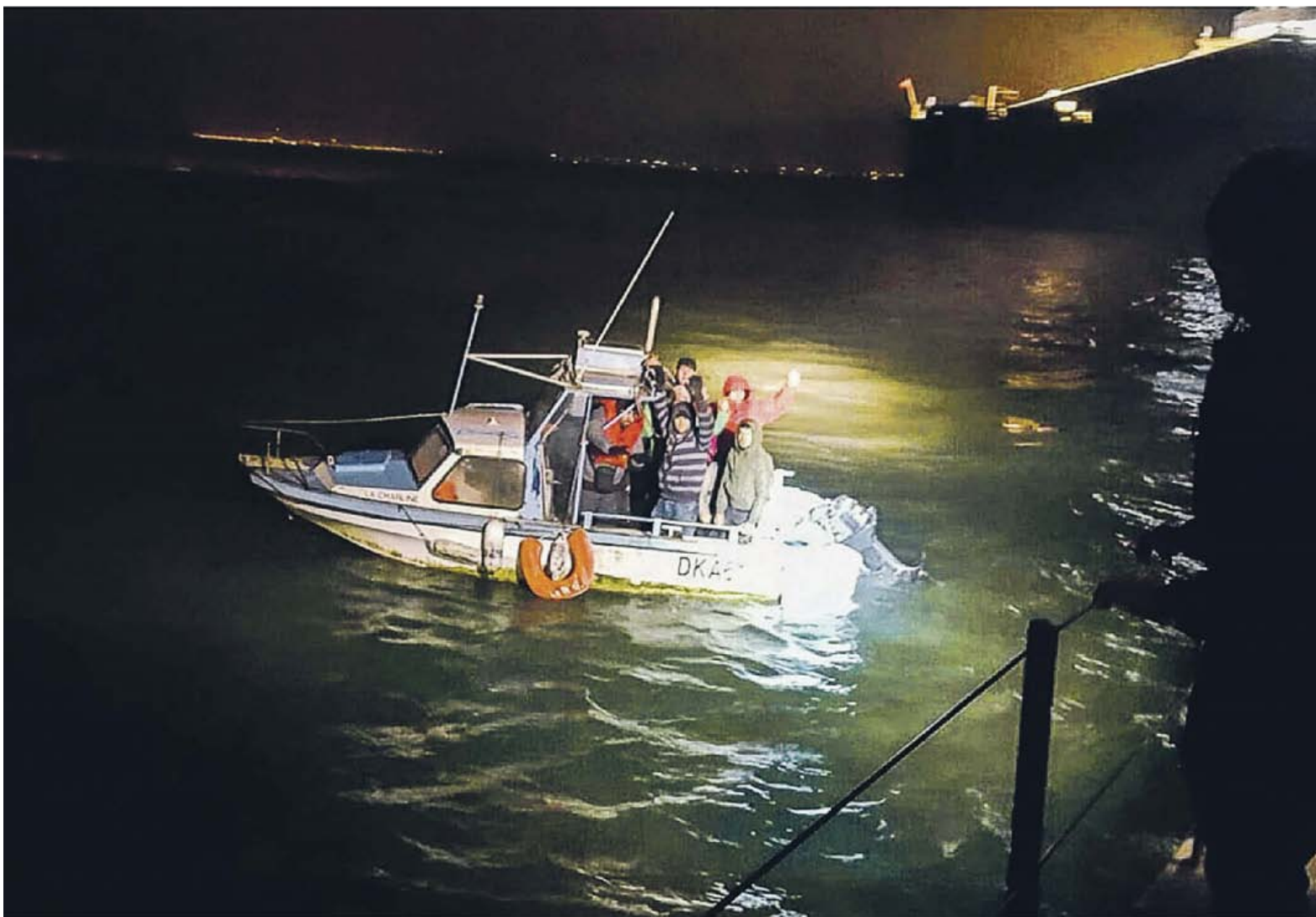
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Media



Our national press is prepared to manufacture a moral panic by playing on deep-seated fears

Migrant 'crisis'

Our out-of-step press demonises desperate people

Media coverage of a fictional 'surge' does not reflect the values of our multicultural society

Roy Greenslade



Where is our humanity? More to the point, where is the compassion that should inform the editorial agendas of our major news outlets?

For the past couple of weeks, in a period we like to call the season of goodwill, Britain's newspapers and broadcasters have been reporting the arrival of desperate men and women on our shores as if they are criminals unworthy of charity or understanding.

Along the way, there has been exaggeration and misinformation informed by blind prejudice. If the Anglo-Saxons had been able to publish papers, their journalists might well have greeted the Vikings with greater sympathy.

Editors are hardly the only guilty parties. Government ministers, particularly home secretary Sajid Javid, have also been guilty of overdramatisation and obnoxious chauvinism.

Together, rightwing politicians and the press have outbid each other in demonising the little groups of migrants who have risked their lives in dodgy boats to cross the Channel.

The Sun told its readers, without a shred of hard evidence, that "genuine asylum seekers fleeing persecution would seek safe haven in the first EU country they reached". How can the paper know that for sure?

Anyway, that unfounded claim is completely beside the point. Isn't the very fact they need a safe haven

at all of far greater importance? And it went on to claim that the desire of the "illegals" to reach the UK from France is because "we looked a better bet – or a softer touch".

If we are a softer touch, as the Daily Express also argued, then why have the people fleeing Syria, Afghanistan, Iran and Kurdish Iraq been settled in other European countries in their hundreds of thousands while we have accommodated so few?

Compared with our neighbours, it is we who are hard on immigration, while they are admirably soft. That reality has been conveniently overlooked amid the editorial hue and cry about a mere 539 souls who sailed here during 2018.

This is "a major incident", declared Javid in an unashamed bid to burnish his Tory leadership credentials (message: "I may not want a hard Brexit, but look how hard I am on immigration").

In fact, it was an attempt to counter rising journalistic criticism of his failure to quit his holiday and act as aggressively as editors wished.

Newspapers thrive on condemnation, rather than explanation. So Javid, attacked on the grounds of his alleged incompetence and/or his supposed political ambitions, is but one target.

The others are the "evil traffickers" (of course); the French (bien sûr); the EU (for having open borders); "lefties" (for having created a civilised welfare society and daring to exercise concern for asylum seekers); and the migrants themselves.

Can you not hear the dog whistle? What the hysterical coverage of this minor incident illustrates is the

▲ A boat carrying Iranians is picked up by the French coastguard in Calais
PHOTOGRAPH: GENDARMERIE MARITIME

way in which our national press is prepared to manufacture a moral panic by playing on two deep-seated British fears – the fear of aliens and the fear of seaborne "invasion".

Racism and xenophobia, as ever, are the underlying message of stories and leading articles. Through the use of hyperbole what amounts to a non-crisis has been presented as its opposite.

With echoes of Churchill's second world war rhetoric, we are urged to fight them on the beaches. "We need to defend our borders and our interests," said the Daily Telegraph, contending – again without proof – that "most of those who have arrived are economic migrants and not genuine refugees".

It's time, wrote the Express columnist Leo McKinstry, for "our maritime forces" to employ "a muscular strategy" by engaging "in real deterrence ... turning back the boats at sea" and "returning rescued migrants to France".

The Daily Mail may be more liberal since the departure of Paul



Sajid Javid claimed the refugee situation was a 'major incident'

Dacre, but, on this subject, it retains a little Englander philosophy. "Get a grip on the borders", said a headline, based on a single Tory MP's statement.

The following day its front page said: "Channel migrants: now it's a crisis", while its editorial argued that the humane option, in order to avoid tragedy, is to send them back to France.

It further asserted, on the basis of a dispatch from one of its reporters, that "the vast majority" of would-be migrants were Iranians who, by implication, do not merit refugee status. However, the report described them as "fleeing oppression in the Islamic Republic of Iran" which surely suggests that they might well qualify for political asylum.

The Mail's Sunday stablemate, which rushed to judgment the week before to decry the innocent couple embroiled in the Gatwick drones fiasco, claimed that there was a quick fix to the "easily foreseeable mess". In essence, this was to dump the problem in the lap of the French.

Both the Sunday Telegraph and Sunday Times concentrated their fire on Javid in terms which suggested that there was a genuine crisis.

Days later, the Times did nothing to stamp down the increasingly febrile debate by reporting that the navy had been deployed "to help counter the surge of migrants crossing the Channel". What surge was that? Twelve people in a boat, as distinct from six the week before? This was a shabby piece of tabloid-style embellishment.

The Daily Mirror, while rightly scorning the playing of "political games" and the magnification of "a relatively small problem into a huge issue" concentrated its fire on the "greedy gangs" of people smugglers. Fair enough, and thank goodness for that counter-viewpoint, but it did avoid the central issue: why is Britain so hostile towards people seeking sanctuary?

As for our main news broadcasters, their coverage is a reaction to, and therefore an amplification of, what is published by newspapers. The mantra is that our national press lacks influence because of its print sales decline. In fact, it still retains the capability to dominate and manipulate the national conversation.

Looking at the totality of the news coverage brings one to the undeniably sad conclusion that Britain's media is out of step with our modern multicultural society. Despite the demographic changes wrought over the last 60 years or so, its output is informed, albeit unconsciously, by an old-fashioned notion of white, Anglo-Saxon supremacy. The reporting of the migrants "surge" is but an extension of the pro-Brexit propaganda.

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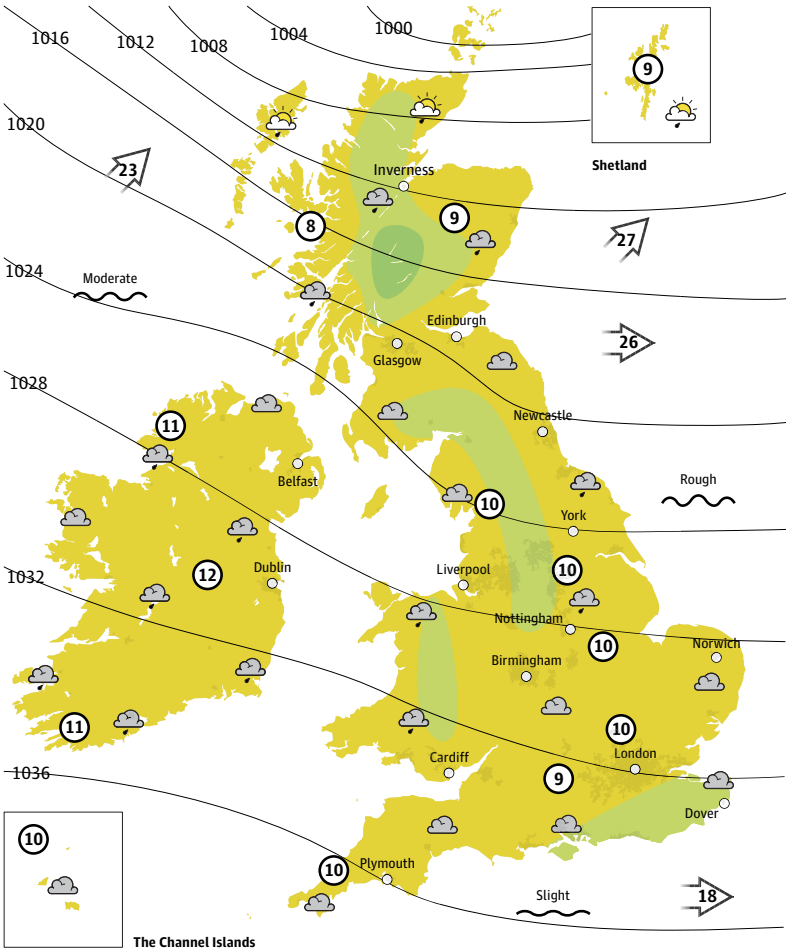


Weather

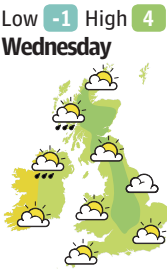
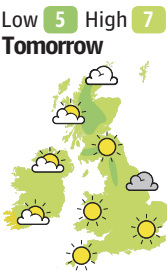
Monday 7 January 2019

UK and Ireland Noon today

- Sunny
- Mist
- Fog
- Sunny intervals
- Hazy
- Mostly cloudy
- Overcast/dull
- Sunny showers
- Sunny and heavy showers
- Light showers
- Rain
- Sleet
- Light snow
- Snow showers
- Heavy snow
- Ice
- Thundery rain
- Thundery showers
- Temperature, °C
- Wind speed, mph
- Windy



Forecast

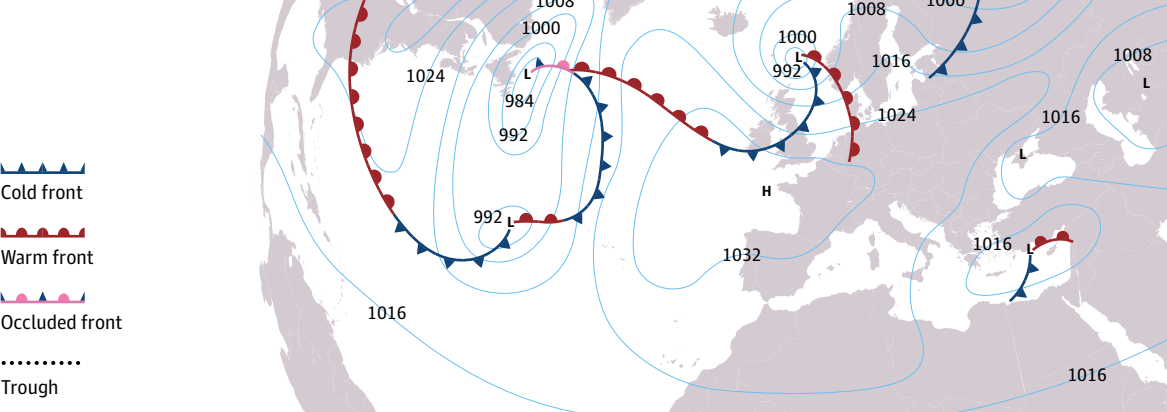


Occasional showers across the east coast tomorrow. Showers in Scotland on Wednesday.

Around the UK

London	Lows and highs	Precipitation	Air pollution
	6 10	25%	Low
Manchester	5 11	70%	Low
Edinburgh	3 11	60%	Low
Belfast	5 11	60%	Low
Birmingham	5 10	60%	Low
Brighton	5 9	25%	Low
Bristol	4 9	25%	Low
Cardiff	5 10	60%	Low
Newcastle	4 12	60%	Low
Penzance	8 10	65%	Low

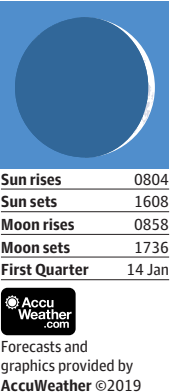
Atlantic front



High tides

Aberdeen	0204	4.1m	1408	4.2m
Avonmouth	0754	12.7m	2015	12.4m
Barrow	--	--	1209	9.0m
Belfast	--	--	1205	3.6m
Cobh	0611	4.1m	1823	4.0m
Cromer	0718	4.7m	1919	4.9m
Dover	--	--	1156	6.4m
Dublin	0013	3.8m	1221	4.0m
Galway	0549	5.1m	1816	4.9m
Greenock	0058	3.3m	1318	3.6m
Harwich	0014	3.9m	1235	3.8m
Holyhead	1105	5.6m	2328	5.2m
Hull	0700	6.9m	1906	7.3m
Leith	0322	5.3m	1531	5.3m
Liverpool	--	--	1151	9.1m
London Bridge	0228	6.8m	1446	6.9m
Lossiemouth	0038	3.8m	1242	4.0m
Milford Haven	0658	6.7m	1915	6.5m
Newquay	0548	6.8m	1805	6.6m
North Shields	0410	4.8m	1615	5.0m
Oban	0621	4.0m	1832	3.8m
Penzance	0521	5.4m	1738	5.2m
Plymouth	0621	5.4m	1840	5.2m
Portsmouth	0002	4.5m	1209	4.5m
Southport	1126	8.8m	2353	8.5m
Stornoway	0731	4.8m	1953	4.4m
Weymouth	0721	2.1m	1943	1.9m
Whitby	0443	5.2m	1650	5.4m
Wick	--	--	1203	3.5m
Workington	0001	7.8m	1216	8.1m

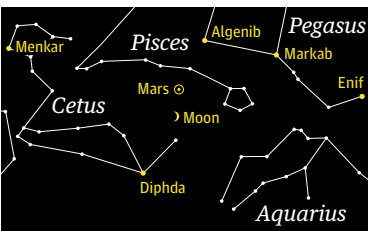
Sun & Moon



Lighting up

Belfast	1617 to 0845
Birm'ham	1611 to 0815
Brighton	1612 to 0801
Bristol	1620 to 0814
Carlisle	1602 to 0833
Cork	1641 to 0839
Dublin	1624 to 0838
Glasgow	1603 to 0845
Harlech	1618 to 0827
Inverness	1550 to 0854
London	1608 to 0804
M'chester	1608 to 0822
Newcastle	1557 to 0829
Norwich	1558 to 0804
Penzance	1637 to 0820

Starwatch



This weekend, keep a look out for the Moon as it slides past the red planet Mars. The chart shows the view looking south at 18:00 GMT on 12 January. The view will be similar on the days either side of this. Mars is about twice the physical diameter of the Moon but appears so much smaller in the sky as it is so much further away. Whereas the Moon orbits the Earth, and on 12 January will be around 396,000 km away, Mars orbits the Sun. On 12 January, it will be 203,000,000 km away from Earth. In many ways, Mars is intermediate in character between Earth and the Moon. Whereas the Moon is airless and Earth has a full atmosphere, Mars has a tenuous atmosphere. Whereas the Moon is arid and Earth boasts an abundance of water, Mars shows evidence that water once flowed there. During 2019, Mars will travel behind the Sun from our perspective. It will be lost from view in July and return in October. **Stuart Clark** @DrStuClark

Around the world

	Algiers	16		Lisbon	14
	Ams'dam	9		Madrid	13
	Athens	6		Malaga	17
	Auckland	24		Melb'rne	26
	B Aires	26		Mexico C	23
	Bangkok	33		Miami	26
	Barcelona	12		Milan	7
	Basra	20		Mombasa	33
	Beijing	3		Moscow	-8
	Berlin	5		Mumbai	31
	Bermuda	18		N Orleans	22
	Brussels	8		Nairobi	26
	Budapest	-2		New Delhi	18
	C'hagen	6		New York	1
	Cairo	16		Oslo	0
	Cape Town	25		Paris	6
	Chicago	11		Perth	31
	Corfu	8		Prague	2
	Dakar	27		Reykjavik	3
	Dhaka	27		Rio de J	35
	Dublin	11		Rome	12
	Florence	11		Shanghai	8
	Gibraltar	16		Singapore	30
	H Kong	20		Stock'h'm	2
	Harare	25		Strasb'g	5
	Helsinki	1		Sydney	24
	Istanbul	3		Tel Aviv	15
	Jo'burg	25		Tenerife	20
	K Lumpur	33		Tokyo	10
	K'mandu	14		Toronto	1
	Kabul	8		Vancouv'r	6
	Kingston	30		Vienna	0
	Kolkata	26		Warsaw	-3
	L Angeles	16		Wash'ton	6
	Lagos	31		Well'ton	21
	Lima	25		Zurich	2

Rugby league

Super League ready to break new ground

Page 40 →

Tennis

Konta eases injury fears in Australia

Page 41 →



Sport



▲ Finally ice fishing – or ‘chess on ice’ as some would have it – will get its moment in the international spotlight

CHUNG SUNG-JUN/
GETTY IMAGES

with the assertion that “mascots have always been born of strange ideas” and it is certainly true of theirs.

January, however, is full of events that do not need an outsized alien to get people muttering about strange ideas. Take the World Ice Fishing Championship, which starts in Batak, Bulgaria, in a fortnight, and involves contestants drilling access to a frozen lake and attempting to coax fish from its frigid depths by rapidly wiggling their miniature rods. “This sport is very interesting,” said the Russian Nikolai Volodin after he came 76th in 2017. “Chess on ice, you could say.”

There are certainly more meaningless things to do on ice, as contestants of this week’s IceSnowFootball World Cup will surely discover. The event has attracted four star-studded sides to the Swiss town of Arosa, including Stéphane Chapuisat from the host nation, Germany’s Torsten Frings and Mario Basler, Spain’s Gaizka Mendieta and, somehow finding himself in a global all-stars squad, Danny Mills. All will attempt to play on an Alpine ice rink covered in snow, and though it must be extremely hard for players to keep their footing in such conditions, anyone who watched Neymar’s performances in Russia last year will appreciate that the same is sometimes true on perfectly-manicured grass, only without the obvious excuse.

Those in search of something a little less prone to melting or falling over should look instead to Las Vegas on 23 January, when the Bricklayer World Championship will be not so much played as laid. To the outsider this looks like the undoubted highlight of the industry conference it is crowbarred into, thrillingly entitled World of Concrete, and is apparently known as the “Super Bowl of Masonry”. It involves two-man teams attempting to build a 26ft 8in, double wythe brick wall over the course of a single hour. The biggest wall wins, though “a team’s final brick count may be adjusted down if judges detect workmanship infractions”.

This sounds like exactly the event José Mourinho has been working towards in recent years, his career having turned into an exercise in putting up barriers both on the pitch and off it, ending up with something like a double wythe wall in that observers increasingly discerned a big gap in the middle where something meaningful might have been. Less promisingly, his final months at Old Trafford were practically littered with workmanship infractions.

Football, like most sports, is an inherently competitive endeavour, but as the Bricklayer World Championship suggests, increasingly there is nothing humans will not turn into a battle. Witness the first of this month’s cookery contests, the 2019 World Championship Scotch Pie Awards, whose winners will be announced on 15 January. It takes some cheek to apply the word “world” to a competition with three English finalists, 47 from Scotland and none from anywhere else, or to associate it with 2019 when the pies were both cooked and judged last November, but this is the world we live in.

The Coupe du Monde de la Pâtisserie is a step up in seriousness. Teams from 21 countries will head to Lyon this month to create a range of frozen and baked morsels over 10 hours of remorseless action. This year among the required products is a honey biscuit, included because, according to the event’s president, Philippe Rigolot: “We considered it fitting to use the fame of the Coupe du Monde de la Pâtisserie to further a cause as noble and important as the defence of bees, who are true sentinels of our environment.” This is a noble goal, though whoever decided a good way to further the cause of bees would be to steal their honey and use it to make biscuits was almost certainly more interested in biscuits than bees. Still, these aren’t the World Beekeeping Awards – we’ve got to wait until September for those.

Parallel worlds

‘Super Bowl of masonry’ cements itself on alternative global stage in 2019

Simon Burton



At the start of what is going to be, at least numerically speaking, an odd year, we look ahead to 12 months with no men’s football World Cup or European Championship; a time when, away from the lush pastures of the world’s most popular and attention-demanding sport, the often icy and ignored playing fields of a few different disciplines can finally receive the focus they deserve.

The men’s Cricket World Cup starts in May and the rugby version in September, but there is no need to go so long in search of global competition when alternative events already abound like so much January snowfall. Starting with the Men’s Handball World Championship, co-hosted by “the two handball-loving countries of Germany and Denmark”, which starts on Thursday.

For all that the event is about pitting nation against nation in very literally hand-to-hand combat, it is imbued with a spirit of cooperation that does not end with the harmonious hosts. The German singer Dominik Klein – not to be confused with the German international handball player Dominik Klein, even though he seems to have been chosen quite deliberately for that purpose – collaborated with the Danish DJ Kongsted to record the official song, the suitably energetic Stand Up Stand Out while the mascot was designed “partly by fans” after a global crowdsourcing initiative.

This might have been a tactical error. They ended up with a moon-faced humanoid called Stan, who looks like Frank Sidebottom has just joined the Power Rangers. The German handball association started its press release introducing Stan, a visitor from the fictional planet GD19,

World handball’s moon-faced humanoid mascot Stan looks like Frank Sidebottom just joined the Power Rangers

The week ahead

Chelsea's Drew Spence and Bethany England will believe they can close the gap to the leaders Arsenal on Sunday



Today

Football
Emirates FA Cup
Third round Wolves v Liverpool (7.45pm) *BBC One*
Tennis
ATP/WTA Sydney International
Australia (to Sat) *Eurosport 1/ BT Sport 1*
ATP ASB Classic
Auckland, New Zealand (to Sat)
WTA Hobart International
Australia (to Sat) *BT Sport 3*

Cricket
Fourth Test (final day of five)
Australia v India, Sydney (11.30pm) *BT Sport 1*
Second Test (final day of five)
South Africa v Pakistan (8.30am) *Sky Sports Cricket*

Darts
BDO World Championships
Lakeside, Frimley Green (to Sun) *Eurosport 1*
Motorsport
Dakar Rally
Peru-Argentina (to 17 Jan) *Eurosport 1*
Racing
Chepstow, Musselburgh, Wolverhampton

Tomorrow

Football (7.45pm unless stated)
Carabao Cup
Semi-final: first leg Tottenham v Chelsea (8pm) *Sky Sports Football*
Checkatrade Trophy
Third round Accrington v Bury; Cheltenham v Oxford Utd; Northampton v Bristol Rovers; Port Vale v Shrewsbury; Rochdale v Man City U21 (7pm); Southend v Portsmouth; Sunderland v Newcastle U21
Vanarama National League
Bromley v Wrexham; Gateshead v Solihull Moors
FA Trophy
First round Maidenhead Utd v Oxford City; Salisbury FC v Braintree Town
First round: Replay Havant and W v Dover
Cricket
Third One-Day International
New Zealand v Sri Lanka, Nelson (10pm) *Sky Sports Cricket*
Racing
Ayr, Bangor, Newcastle

Wednesday

Football (7.45pm unless stated)
Carabao Cup
Semi-final: first leg
Man City v Burton (7.45pm) *SSF*
Checkatrade Trophy
Third round Chelsea U21 v Peterborough (7pm)
Vanarama National League South
Woking v Welling
FA Women's League Cup
Quarter-finals Arsenal v Birmingham (7.30pm); Chelsea v Reading (7.30pm); Man Utd v West Ham (7pm)
Racing
Doncaster, Kempton, Lingfield, Taunton

Thursday

Football
FA Women's League Cup
Quarter-finals
Manchester City v Brighton (7pm)
Golf
Sony Open
Honolulu (to Sun) *Sky Sports Golf*

The main event

Tottenham v Manchester United

4.30pm, Sunday, SSPL

Marcus Rashford has been brilliant since Manchester United's change of manager. Can he keep their winning streak alive?



Football results

Emirates FA Cup

Accrington Stanley (0) 1 Kee 76	Ipswich (0) 0 2,869
Aston Villa (0) 0	Swansea (1) 3 Baker-Richardson 2 Dyer 47 Fulton 78
30,572	
Blackpool (0) 0	Arsenal (2) 3 Willock 11 37 Iwobi 82
8,955	
Bolton (0) 5	Walsall (1) 2 Donaldson 58 Magennis 61 80 87 Guthrie 63og
Bournemouth (0) 1	Brighton (2) 3 Knockaert 31 Bissouma 34 Andone 64
10,522	
Brentford (0) 1	Oxford Utd (0) 0 Maupay 80pen
Bristol City (0) 1	Huddersfield (0) 0 Brownhill 72
Burnley (0) 1	Barnsley (0) 0 Wood 90pen
Chelsea (0) 2	Nottm Forest (0) 0 Morata 49 59
Crystal Palace (0) 1	Grimsby (0) 0 Ayew 86

Derby (0) 2 Marriott 58 Lawrence 61	Southampton (1) 2 Redmond 4 48 17,095
Everton (2) 2 Lookman 12 Bernard 14	Lincoln City (1) 1 Bostwick 28 37,900
Fleetwood Town (0) 2 Madden 70, Evans 72pen	AFC Wimbledon (1) 3 Barcham 16, Hartigan 55 Appiah 90
Fulham (0) 1 Odoi 52 16,134	Oldham (0) 2 Surridge 76pen Lang 88
Gillingham (0) 1 List 81	Cardiff (0) 0 7,090
Manchester City (3) 7 Sterling 12, Foden 43 Ajayi 45og, Jesus 53, Mahrez 73 Otamendi 78, Sané 85	Rotherham (0) 0 16,134
Manchester Utd (2) 2 Mata 22pen Lukaku 45	Reading (0) 0 73,918
Middlesbrough (0) 5 Assombalonga 47 70 Friend 50 Wing 63 Fletcher 87	Peterborough (0) 0 11,647
Millwall (0) 2 Ferguson 82 85 5,307	Hull (0) 1 Toral 52

Newcastle (0) 1 Ritchie 85pen 36,440	Blackburn (0) 1 Dack 56
Newport County (1) 2 Matt 10 Amond 85pen	Leicester (0) 1 Ghezal 82 6,705
Norwich (0) 0 23,201	Portsmouth (0) 1 Green 90
Preston (0) 1 Hughes 56 8,101	Doncaster (1) 3 Marquis 5, Anderson 72 Wilks 87
QPR (1) 2 Oteh 23pen Bidwell 75	Leeds (1) 1 Halme 25 11,637
Sheffield Wed (0) 0 16,974	Luton (0) 0
Sheffield Utd (0) 0 9,906	Barnet (1) 1 Coulthirst 21pen
Shrewsbury (1) 1 Norburn 45pen 7,512	Stoke (0) 1 Crouch 78
West Brom (1) 1 Sako 31	Wigan (0) 0 15,465
West Ham (1) 2 Wing 63 Carroll 90	Birmingham (0) 0 54,840
Woking (0) 0 5,717	Watford (1) 2 Hughes 13 Deeney 74

Scotland

LADBROKES PREMIERSHIP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Celtic	20	13	3	4	46	14	+32	42
Rangers	21	12	6	3	43	16	+27	42
Kilmarnock	21	12	5	4	32	20	+12	41
Aberdeen	21	12	3	6	34	24	+10	39
Hearts	21	11	3	7	26	26	0	36
St Johnstone	20	10	4	6	25	24	+1	34
Livingston	21	8	6	7	26	19	+7	30
Hibernian	21	7	8	6	30	22	+8	29
Motherwell	21	6	3	12	20	33	-13	21
Hamilton	21	4	2	15	14	43	-29	14
St Mirren	21	3	3	15	15	39	-24	12
Dundee	21	2	4	15	15	46	-31	10

LEADING GOALSCORERS

12 Morelos (Rangers). 9 Edouard (Celtic); Cosgrove (Aberdeen). 8 Forrest (Celtic); Naismith (Hearts); Brophy (Kilmarnock); Stewart (Kilmarnock). 7 Miller (Dundee). 6 Sinclair (Celtic); Tavernier (Rangers); Johnson (Motherwell)

LADBROKES CHAMPIONSHIP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Ross County	20	11	6	3	35	16	+19	39
Ayr	19	10	6	3	34	17	+17	36
Dundee Utd	20	9	6	5	30	29	+1	33
Morton	20	7	7	6	23	28	-5	28
Queen of South	20	6	9	5	29	23	+6	27
Inverness CT	19	5	11	3	26	22	+4	26
Dunfermline	20	6	6	8	22	27	-5	24
Alloa	20	4	8	8	21	29	-8	20
Falkirk	20	4	4	12	17	31	-14	16
Partick	20	4	3	13	18	33	-15	15

Other football

FA WOMEN'S SUPER LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Arsenal	11	10	0	1	46	9	+37	30
Manchester City	12	8	4	0	34	7	+27	28
Chelsea	12	7	4	1	18	5	+13	25
Birmingham	12	8	1	3	16	9	+7	25
Reading	12	5	3	4	18	15	+3	18
West Ham	12	5	1	6	18	23	-5	16
Bristol City	11	4	3	4	10	15	-5	15
Liverpool	12	3	1	8	8	21	-13	10
Brighton	12	2	1	9	9	28	-19	7
Everton	11	2	1	8	7	23	-16	5
Yeovil	11	1	0	10	6	35	-29	3

Birmingham 2 Reading 1; Bristol City 1 Manchester City 1; Chelsea 3 Everton 0; Liverpool 0 Brighton 2; West Ham 2 Arsenal 4

FA WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP

Charlton 2 Durham 2; Leicester City 4 Lewes 0; Manchester Utd 9 London Bees 0; Sheffield Utd 1 Tottenham 2
League standings: 1 Manchester Utd P11 Pts28; 2 Tottenham 11-27; 3 Charlton 12-26

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Leyton Orient	29	16	9	4	49	20	+29	57
Salford City	29	16	7	6	56	31	+25	55
Wrexham	28	15	8	5	36	18	+18	53
Solihull Moors	28	15	6	7	43	25	+18	51
AFC Fylde	29	13	11	5	45	23	+22	50
Sutton Utd	28	13	10	5	38	31	+7	49
Harrowgate Town	29	13	8	8	54	39	+15	47
Gateshead	28	14	4	10	36	27	+9	46
Ebbsfleet United	29	12	8	9	43	31	+12	44
Eastleigh	29	12	7	10	33	38	-5	43
Barrow	29	11	6	12	32	34	-2	39
Boreham Wood	29	9	11	9	32	33	-1	38
Bromley	28	10	6	12	40	43	-3	36

Ayr 0 Falkirk 1; Dundee Utd 1 Partick 1; Dunfermline 2 Alloa 2; Inverness CT 1 Queen of the South 2

LEADING GOALSCORERS

18 Shankland (Ayr). 16 Dobbie (Queen of the South). 12 McKay (Ross County). 8 Safrancko (Dundee Utd). 7 Rudden (Falkirk). 6 Trouten (Alloa); Flannigan (Alloa); Mullin (Ross County). 5 Walsh (Inverness CT); McHugh (Morton); Spittal (Partick); Todd (Queen of the South). 4 White (Inverness CT); Zanatta (Alloa). 3 Moffat (Ayr).

LADBROKES LEAGUE ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Arbroath	20	15	4	1	45	17	+28	49
Raith	20	11	5	4	47	26	+21	38
East Fife	20	10	2	8	30	28	+2	32
Forfar	20	9	3	8	28	33	-5	30
Airdrieonians	20	9	2	9	30	26	+4	29
Montrose	20	8	4	8	26	31	-5	28
Stranraer	19	6	5	8	22	26	-4	23
Dumbarton	20	5	4	11	30	38	-8	19
Brechin	19	4	4	11	23	34	-11	16
Stenhousemuir	20	5	1	14	20	42	-22	16

Arbroath 1 Brechin 0; Dumbarton 2 Forfar 3; East Fife 1 Airdrieonians 2; Raith 5 Stenhousemuir 1; Stranraer 1 Montrose 2

LEADING GOALSCORERS

17 Nisbet (Raith). 14 Linn (Arbroath). 10 Baird (Forfar); McGuigan (Stenhousemuir). 9 Rennie (Montrose). 8 Buchanan (Raith); Forbes (Dumbarton). 7 Jackson (Brechin); Vitoria (Airdrieonians); Wallace (Arbroath). 6 Agnew (East Fife); Duffy (Airdrieonians); McIntosh (Airdrieonians); Hilson (Forfar); Vaughan (Raith)

LADBROKES LEAGUE TWO

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Edinburgh City	19	14	2	3	34	11	+23	44
Peterhead	18	13	2	3	40	14	+26	41
Clyde	19	12	3	4	33	18	+15	39
Annan Athletic	19	8	4	7	29	22	+7	28
Elgin	19	8	1	10	28	38	-10	25
Cowdenbeath	18	6	4	8	23	21	+2	22
Stirling	18	6	3	9	22	27	-5	21
Queen's Park	18	5	5	8	15	22	-7	20
Berwick	18	4	2	12	19	45	-26	14
Albion	18	1	4	13	16	41	-25	7

Annan 2 Elgin 0; Cowdenbeath 2 Berwick 0; Edinburgh City 0 Stirling 1; Peterhead 1 Clyde 2; Queen's Park 2 Albion 2

LEADING GOALSCORERS

18 Henderson (Edinburgh City). 11 Sutherland (Elgin). 10 McAllister (Peterhead). 9 Goodwillie (Clyde)

BREEDON HIGHLAND LEAGUE

Buckie Thistle 0 Brora 4; Deveronvale 2 Clachnacuddin 1; Formartine United 14 Fort William 1; Huntly 2 Keith 1; Inverurie Loco Works 3 Strathspey Thistle 2; Lossiemouth 0 Rothies 4; Nairn County 1 Fraserburgh 2; Turriff United 0 Cove Rangers 1; Wick Academy 0 Forres Mechanics 0
League standings: 1 Cove Rangers P20 Pts57; 2 Fraserburgh 22-52; 3 Brora Rangers 20-51

GESONIC LOWLAND LEAGUE

BSC Glasgow 1 Civil Service S 1; Cumbernauld Colts 0 East Kilbride 3; East Stirling 3 Kelty Hearts 3; Gala Fairydean P Selkirk P; Gretna 2008 5 Dalbeattie Star 2; Stirling Uni 1 Edinburgh Uni 1; Vale Of Leithen 5 Edusport Academy 4; Whitehill Welfare 1 Spartans 1
League standings: 1 East Kilbride P17 Pts44; 2 BSC Glasgow 18-38; 3 Kelty H 17-35

Mickleover Sports 2 Stalybridge 1; North Ferriby Utd 0 Marine 2; Scarborough Athletic 5 Hednesford 3; Stafford Rangers 1 Wokington 1; Witton Albion 0 South Shields 1
League standings: 1 Nantwich P27 Pts53; 2 Farsley Celtic 23-52; 3 Warrington 24-52

EVO-STIK SOUTHERN PREMIER CENTRAL

Banbury 6 Barwell 1; Bedworth Utd 0 Stourbridge 3; Biggleswade Town 1 St Ives Town 0; Halesowen 1 Coalville Town 3; Hitchin Town 3 AFC Rushden & Diamonds 4; Kettering 2 Tamworth 1; King's Lynn Town 1 Leiston 1; Lowestoft 2 Needham Market 2; Rushall Olympic 1 Redditch 3; St Neots Town 1 Royston Town 0; Stratford Town 0 Alvechurch 1
League standings: 1 Stourbridge P26 Pts56; 2 Kettering 23-54; 3 King's Lynn 23-39

EVO-STIK SOUTHERN PREMIER SOUTH

Chesham Utd 0 Beaconsfield 0; Farnborough 2 Swindon Supermarine 1; Frome Town 1 Wimborne Utd 0; Harrow Borough 4 Met Police 3; Hartley Wintney 0 Basingstoke 2; Hendon 1 Kings Langley 2; Merthyr Town 1 Salisbury FC 2; Poole Town 1 Gosport Borough 1; Staines Town 1 Walton Casuals 4; Taunton 1 Dorchester 1; Weymouth 2 Tiverton 1
League standings: 1 Taunton P24 Pts49; 2 Weymouth 22-45; 3 Salisbury 23-45

BOSTIK PREMIER

AFC Hornchurch 1 Dorking Wanderers 1; Bishop's Stortford 0 Kingstonian 3; Bognor Regis Town 2 Carshalton Ath 0; Burgess Hill Town 0 Folkestone Invicta 0; Corinthian Casuals 0 Harlow 0; Enfield 1 Lewes 1; Haringey Borough 3 Whitehawk 0; Leatherhead 2 Potters Bar Town 1; Margate 1 Worthing 1; Merstham 3 Wingate & Finchley 0; Tonbridge Angels 2 Brightlingsea Regent 2
League standings: 1 Haringey P24 Pts49; 2 Kingstonian 24-41; 3 Dorking 22-40

JD WELSH PREMIER LEAGUE

Caernarfon 3 Carmarthen 1; Cardiff Met Uni 3 Bala Town 0; Cefn Druids 2 Barry Town 5; Llanelli Town 2 Llandudno 1
League standings: 1 Connah's Quay P21 Pts45; 2 Barry Town 21-44; 3 The New Saints 21-43

Sky Bet League One

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Portsmouth	26	17	6	3	46	24	+22	57
Luton	26	15	7	4	49	24	+25	52
Sunderland	25	14	9	2	46	24	+22	51
Charlton	27	14	5	8	43	31	+12	47
Barnsley	25	13	7	5	40	22	+18	46
Doncaster	26	13	6	7	47	32	+15	45
Peterborough	26	12	8	6	45	33	+12	44
Coventry	27	11	5	11	29	31	-2	38
Burton Albion	26	10	5	11	34	33	+1	35
Southend	26	11	2	13	32	31	+1	35
Blackpool	25	9	8	8	26	25	+1	35
Fleetwood Town	26	9	7	10	35	30	+5	34
Accrington Stanley	25	9	7	9	27	35	-8	34
Wycombe	26	8	8	10	34	38	-4	32
Walsall	26	8	8	10	28	41	-13	32
Shrewsbury	26	7	9	10	29	32	-3	30
Scunthorpe	27	8	6	13	34	52	-18	30
Rochdale	27	8	6	13	33	56	-23	30
Gillingham	26	8	4	14	36	43	-7	28
Bristol Rovers	26	7	6	13	25	29	-4	27
Bradford	26	8	3	15	31	40	-9	27
Oxford Utd	26	6	8	12	31	41	-10	26
Plymouth	26	6	6	14	31	47	-16	24
AFC Wimbledon	26	6	4	16	20	37	-17	22

Charlton	(0) 1	Sunderland	(1) 1
James 50og		O’Nien 2	
16,317			

Rochdale	(0) 0	Burton Albion	(2) 4
		Harness 19 30 86	
		Boyce 78	

2,666			
Scunthorpe	(0) 2	Coventry	(0) 1
Perch 67		Chaplin 78	
Sutton 74		4,692	



Europe

LA LIGA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Barcelona	17	11	4	2	48	19	+29	37
Atlético Madrid	18	9	8	1	26	13	+13	35
Sevilla	18	9	6	3	31	18	+13	33
Alavés	18	9	4	5	21	18	+3	31
Real Madrid	18	9	3	6	26	23	+3	30
Real Betis	18	7	5	6	21	21	0	26
Getafe	17	6	7	4	18	13	+5	25
Espanyol	18	7	3	8	19	24	-5	24
Girona	18	5	8	5	20	22	-2	23
Levante	18	6	5	7	30	34	-4	23
Real Sociedad	18	6	4	8	20	20	0	22
Valencia	18	4	10	4	16	16	0	22
Eibar	18	5	7	6	21	25	-4	22
Celta Vigo	17	5	6	6	28	26	+2	21
Real Valladolid	18	5	6	7	16	20	-4	21
Leganés	18	4	7	7	16	21	-5	19
Villarreal	18	3	7	7	19	23	-4	17
Rayo Vallecano	18	4	4	10	18	32	-14	16
Athletic Bilbao	17	2	10	5	16	24	-8	16
Huesca	18	2	5	11	17	35	-18	11

Alavés 2 Valencia 1; Eibar 0 Villarreal 0; Getafe L Barcelona L; Huesca 2 Real Betis 1; Real Madrid 0 Real Sociedad 2; Real Valladolid 0 Rayo Vallecano 1; Sevilla 1 Atlético Madrid 1 Friday Espanyol 1 Leganés 0; Levante 2 Girona 2 Today Celta Vigo v Athletic Bilbao (8pm)

COUPE DE FRANCE

Third round Amiens 1 Valenciennes 0; Andrezieux 2 Marseille 0; Bergerac 2 Niort 1; Bastia 2 Concarneau 2 (5-4 on pens); Bordeaux 0 Le Havre 1; Bourges 0 Lyon 2; Canet Roussillon 0 Monaco 1; Gravesines 0 Villefranche 3 (aet); IC Croix 2 Raon L Etape 0; Le Puy 0 Nancy 1; Longueau 0 Vitre 0 (1-4 on pens); Lyon Duchere 3 Nîmes 0; Marigane 1 Clermont 1 (3-0 on pens); Nantes 4 Chanteauroux 1; Noisy-le-Grand 2 Gazélec Ajaccio 1; OL Strasbourg 0 St-Etienne 6; Orleans 3 Aiglon Lamentin 2 (aet); Pontivy L PSG L; Pontivyen 2 Guingamp 4; Red Star 0 Caen 1; Reims 2 Lens 0; Rennes 2 Brest 2 (5-4 on pens); Saint-Pryve 3 Aurillac 1; Sannois 1 Montpellier 0; Schiltigheim 1 Dijon 3; St Quentin 1 Metz 2 (aet); Toulouse 4 Nice 1; Tours 1 Les Herbiers 2; Viny-Chantillon 1 Angers 0

PRIMEIRA LIGA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Porto	15	13	0	2	31	9	+22	39
Sporting	15	11	1	3	32	16	+16	34
Braga	15	10	3	2	30	16	+14	33
Benfica	15	10	2	3	31	15	+16	32

Sky Bet League Two

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Lincoln City	25	15	6	4	45	24	+21	51
Milton Keynes Dons	25	13	8	4	41	19	+22	47
Bury	27	13	7	7	49	29	+20	46
Mansfield	25	11	12	2	37	19	+18	45
Carlisle	27	14	3	10	45	32	+13	45
Forest Green	25	11	10	4	39	25	+14	43
Exeter	26	12	7	7	38	28	+10	43
Colchester	27	12	7	8	39	30	+9	43
Tranmere	26	10	9	7	38	32	+6	39
Oldham	26	10	8	8	40	33	+7	38
Stevenage	27	11	5	11	31	34	-3	38
Swindon	27	9	9	9	29	35	-6	36
Newport County	25	10	6	9	35	42	-7	36
Grimsbys	26	10	4	12	29	32	-3	34
Crawley Town	26	10	3	13	33	38	-5	33
Crews	27	9	5	13	27	34	-7	32
Northampton	26	6	12	8	32	35	-3	30
Cheltenham	26	7	8	11	31	38	-7	29
Port Vale	26	7	8	11	26	33	-7	29
Morecambe	27	7	6	14	28	44	-16	27
Cambridge Utd	27	7	5	15	24	47	-23	26
Yeovil	25	5	9	11	27	32	-5	24
Macclesfield	27	5	6	16	23	44	-21	21
Notts County	27	4	9	14	29	56	-27	21

Cambridge Utd	(2) 2	Stevenage	(0) 0
Amoo 35			
Brown 45		4,235	

Carlisle	(2) 3	Mansfield	(0) 2
Sowerby 4		Preston 77	
Hope 26 79		Walker 86	
4,563			

Colchester	(2) 3	Notts County	(3) 3
Szmodics 8		Stead 16	
Mandron 45, Pell 67pen		Jones 19, Dennis 32	
3,181			

Crawley Town	(1) 1	Cheltenham	(0) 0
Palmer 39pen		2,623	

Macclesfield	(1) 1	Swindon	(1) 2
Marsh 14		Richards 37	
1,964		McCourt 90	

Morecambe	(0) 2	Crews	(1) 2
Tutte 63		Jones 27	
Ellison 84		Porter 90pen	
1,662			

Yeovil	(0) 0	Bury	(1) 1
2,426		Maynard 24	

LEADING GOALSCORERS	
Norwood Tranmere	16
Walker Mansfield	12
Agard MK Dons	11
Aneke MK Dons	11
Amond Newport County	10
Maynard Bury	10
Palmer Crawley Town	10
Akinede Lincoln City	9
O’Shea Bury	9

Guimarães	16	7	4	5	21	17	+4	25
Belenses	16	6	7	3	20	16	+4	25
Moreirense	15	8	1	6	17	20	-3	25
Portimonense	16	7	2	7	23	27	-4	23
Santa Clara	16	6	3	7	26	25	+1	23
Rio Ave	15	5	4	6	24	25	-1	19
Nacional	15	5	4	6	18	26	-8	19
Vitória Setúbal	16	5	3	8	15	18	-3	18
Boavista	15	4	4	7	12	17	-5	16
Tondela	15	4	3	8	18	22	-4	15
Marítimo	16	4	2	10	10	21	-11	14
Feirense	16	2	6	8	10	23	-13	12
Aves	15	3	2	10	17	29	-12	11
Chaves	16	2	3	11	10	23	-13	9

Belenses 1 Guimarães 0; Benfica L Rio Ave L; Braga L Boavista L; Feirense 2 Santa Clara 2; Marítimo 2 Portimonense 1; Vitória Setúbal 0 Chaves 0 Today Porto v Nacional (9.15pm); Tondela v Sporting (7pm)



Other results

Rugby union

GALLAGHER PREMIERSHIP								
	P	W	D	L	F	A	B	Pts
Exeter	12	10	0	2	361	223	11	51
Saracens	12	10	0	2	370	258	7	47
Harlequins	12	6	0	6	304	273	9	33
Gloucester	12	6	1	5	297	279	6	32
Sale	12	6	1	5	241	252	3	29
Wasps	12	6	0	6	277	320	5	29
Leicester	12	5	0	7	299	355	9	29
Bath	12	5	2	5	255	271	4	28
Northampton	12	5	0	7	285	275	6	26
Bristol	12	4	0	8	272	341	8	24
Worcester	12	4	0	8	255	290	5	21
Newcastle	12	3	0	9	224	303	5	17
Exeter	14	Bristol					9	
Leicester	34	Gloucester					16	
Newcastle	17	Harlequins					38	
Wasps	27	Northampton					16	
Worcester	21	Bath					19	
Played on Friday								
Sale	24	Saracens					18	

GUINNESS PRO14								
Conference A	P	W	D	L	F	A	B	Pts
Munster	13	9	0	4	396	243	8	44
Glasgow	13	8	0	5	351	258	10	42
Ospreys	13	8	0	5	295	258	5	37
Connacht	13	7	0	6	302	253	9	37
Cardiff Blues	13	6	0	7	303	253	8	32
Cheetahs	11	3	1	7	241	334	8	22
Zebre	13	3	0	10	163	339	4	16
Conference B	P	W	D	L	F	A	B	Pts
Leinster	13	11	0	2	457	210	10	54
Edinburgh	13	7	0	6	284	271	7	35
Benetton Treviso	13	7	0	6	263	274	7	35
Scarlets	13	7	0	6	318	301	6	34
Ulster	13	7	1	5	251	316	3	33
Dragons	13	4	0	9	208	355	2	18
Southern Kings	11	1	0	10	200	367	8	12
Benetton Treviso	20	Glasgow					17	
Connacht	24	Munster					31	
Edinburgh	38	Southern Kings					0	
Leinster	40	Ulster					7	
Ospreys	20	Cardiff Blues					11	
Scarlets	22	Dragons					13	
Zebre	12	Cheetahs					27	

NATIONAL LEAGUE ONE								
	P	W	D	L	F	A	B	Pts
Rosslyn Park	17	12	1	4	466	384	11	61
Blackheath	17	12	1	4	411	323	8	58
Old Elthamians	17	11	2	4	448	345	10	58
Amphill & District	17	10	1	6	475	346	15	57
Rotherham Titans	17	11	0	6	431	368	9	53
Chinnor	17	9	2	6	450	437	13	53
Plymouth Albion	17	8	0	9	351	358	11	43
Darlington MP	17	8	0	9	393	427	11	43
Caldy	17	8	0	9	375	432	10	42
Sale FC	17	7	1	9	452	491	10	40
Cinderford	17	7	1	9	336	380	9	39
Cambridge	17	7	1	9	338	345	8	38
Birmingham	17	6	0	11	459	508	14	38
Esher	17	7	0	10	372	459	9	37
Loughborough	17	4	0	13	440	597	14	30
Bishop's Stortford	17	4	0	13	355	352	12	28
Birmingham Moseley	41				Bishop's Stortford			31
Blackheath	27				Plymouth Albion			32
Chinnor	27				Cambridge			26
Darlington MP	41				Old Elthamians			26
Esher	49				Amphill & District			48
Loughborough Students	53				Caldy			19
Rosslyn Park	46				Rotherham			24
Sale FC	31				Cinderford			17

▼ Barcelona's Camp Nou will host Catalans Dragons against Wigan in May
DAVID RAMOS/GETTY IMAGES

'Wigan playing at the Nou Camp is huge – Super League has to get out of its bubble'

Robert Elstone has big plans for this year and beyond and is prepared to ruffle a few feathers along the way

Aaron Bower

'Super League needed to freshen up, and that's probably putting it modestly." Barely five minutes have passed since the Dictaphone

was switched on, and it is clear Robert Elstone is in no mood to mince his words. For months, the Super League chief executive has promised a revolution for British rugby league's elite competition amid a backdrop of boardroom politics but you sense the 54-year-old finally feels as though he is making progress as 2019 begins.

Last week Super League unveiled its self-titled "new beginnings" for 2019; a series of law changes aimed at revolutionising the image of the competition. Interchanges have been reduced, while shot clocks designed to speed up games and golden point extra-time are being implemented for 2019 – but Elstone's plans for change do not end there. "Super League will be different in 2019, that's for sure," he explains. "But you'll see a much better-looking competition in 2020 and the years after that. That's a guarantee."

Expanding Super League's global reach is high on Elstone's agenda, underlined by the possibility that the traditional Magic Weekend could have an international flavour to it sooner rather than later, with Barcelona a likely venue for the event. In May, Catalans will host the reigning champions, Wigan, at the Camp Nou and while Magic will have a new home at Anfield in 2019, Elstone admits that the success of that game in Catalonia could set the stage for all 12 clubs to play in Barcelona at some point.

"If that worked, then it would increase the chances of Magic going there without question," Elstone says. "I think Wigan playing Catalans there is the most incredible development we've had for years. It's a huge statement and it creates huge traction beyond our traditional circles. Super League has to get out of its own bubble, and the Nou Camp helps do that. It's not lost on me that our sport



▲ Robert Elstone left Everton to become Super League's chief executive

has a rebellious soul, and was founded out of injustice. If there's one region of the world that captures that, it's Catalonia."

As the former Everton CEO begins to share his vision for a sport he began watching on the

terraces of Castleford over 40 years ago, it is not difficult to see the strains of the first six months in the job showing. Most of that period was spent entrenched in a public dispute with prominent lower-league clubs about a restructure of the leagues in 2019, which was successfully achieved in September, with confirmation that the Super 8s format would end in 2018.

Despite that victory, Elstone is in no mood to stand still. Next month he will move a new-look team of staff – many of whom have been poached from the RFL – out of the governing body's headquarters in Salford into the centre of Manchester, emphasising

the differing directions of the two parties moving into 2019. Talk of a split between Super League and the RFL is not wide of the mark.

"Getting a group of people focused solely on Super League is well overdue," Elstone says. "I don't think the competition got the focus that it should have had. A big part of all this is about giving the competition accountability. We're accountable for our actions now so there's a spotlight on us we're conscious of, but one we're excited about. We need to break out of our bubble and aim big for this competition."

Part of Elstone's vision includes, by his own admission, looking to Australia's NRL for inspiration. "I'll no doubt be branded an NRL sycophant," he smiles when explaining why Super League has emulated the NRL in adopting golden point extra-time. "The drama of a period of time to decide a winner excites me," he says. "There were a number of variations on the table, including golden try rather than golden point, but aligning ourselves with the NRL was the major factor."

Other significant changes will follow in 2020, including the introduction of two referees per game rather than one: a law amendment again inspired by the NRL. "We came close to doing it in 2019, and had club approvals and budgets signed off, but it was just too late," Elstone says. "I'm

'We don't have enough recognisable stars ... and that's high on our agenda'

pretty confident you'll see it in 2020 though. With the changes to speed the game up, it will put undoubted pressure on officials in 2019. We have to listen to referees and give them more help in-game, and a second referee does that."

The Man of Steel award will change from an end-of-season dinner to a week-by-week voting process that is made public throughout, while the World Club Challenge will also receive a "long-term focus" as part of Elstone's plans for overhaul. Yet despite all that, Elstone concedes the challenge of giving Super League increased profile in a world where everyone is fighting for attention will be a difficult ask.

"We don't have enough recognisable stars at present, and that's high on our agenda," Elstone says. "Getting cut-through in the modern world is harder than ever, but we think we can get our players out there with third-party endorsements and commercial deals now that Super League has proper focus. We have to stand together and acknowledge the future of the competition is in our own hands. The game was at a crossroads in this country, and it was time for Super League to take action. Thankfully, there are grounds for real optimism now we've done that."

Rugby league resolutions Three things to address in 2019

1 Quickly resolve the Catalans Challenge Cup fiasco

The RFL's decision to try and make the reigning Challenge Cup holders, Catalans Dragons, pay a £500,000 deposit to enter this year's competition has backfired. The French club refused, and the governing body is facing a huge PR backlash on the eve of the new season. Backing down and letting Catalans enter for free – like everyone else – is the only way for the RFL to avoid an even bigger public frenzy now.

2 Capture attention outside the heartlands

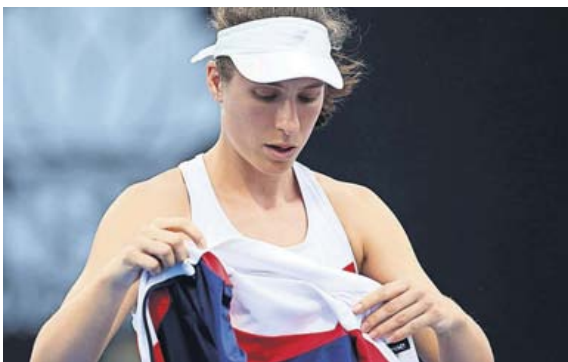
Robert Elstone is adamant that with a Super League-focused set of staff for the first time, the sport

can finally break out of its northern bubble and make superstars of the game's biggest players – something Eddie Hearn admitted rugby league is failing to do. Elstone is right; the challenge now is attracting new fans from outside the game.

3 Resist the need to chop-and-change league structures

Innovation is one of British rugby league's biggest positives – but also one of its flaws. This century alone, there have been a dozen different variations when it comes to league structure. With a traditional one-up, one-down format now in place for 2019, Elstone and the RFL must resist the temptation for change and allow the product to create the headlines, not the boardroom politics.

► *Johanna Konta was trailing 4-1 when injury struck in Sydney*



Tennis

Konta gives British hopes timely lift after injury scare in Sydney

Women's No 1 carries the flag for Brits in Melbourne despite neck injury setback

Kevin Mitchell
Sydney

Johanna Konta has calmed fears she could miss the Australian Open by taking up a lucky loser spot in the main draw of the Sydney International, just hours after retiring from a qualifying match with a neck injury.

The British No 1 withdrew from her second qualifier in Sydney against Ekaterina Alexandrova, of Russia, just 18 minutes into the match after hurting her neck in the warm-up. Konta was 4-1 down at the time.

Her camp insisted the move was precautionary and, soon after treatment, she accepted the place in the draw that was made vacant by the withdrawal of the US Open champion

▼ *Ukraine's Karolina Pliskova joined an exclusive winners club in Brisbane*
STR/AFP/GETTY IMAGES



▲ Briton Heather Watson has a good record at the Hobart International

Naomi Osaka. Konta was due to face Kiki Bertens, the world No 9 from the Netherlands, in the first round.

With Kyle Edmund and Andy Murray among the wounded suffering from injuries old and new, Konta's injury update was a welcome lift for British hopes at the Australian Open, which begins in a week's time.

Murray arrived in Melbourne sounding lukewarm about his chances of making an impression in a tournament in which he has lost five times in the final.

He went out in the second round of the Brisbane International on Wednesday to Daniil Medvedev, who reached the final of that tournament last night

before losing in three sets to Kei Nishikori. There was a glimmer of British hope when Heather Watson qualified for the main draw of the Hobart International by beating the 22-year-old Australian Isabelle Wallace, 6-4, 6-4, in qualifying. It followed her fine win over Naiktha Bains in the first round.

Watson, who won this title four years ago and reached the semi-finals last year, exchanged breaks with Wallace before breaking again to take the first set in 45 minutes. She blew two match points in the 10th game then served out for the win.

"When I come to Hobart I'm always feeling really positive and excited about the tournament," she said. "When I'm happy, I play better. I'm very happy here and I think it shows in my results."

In Brisbane, Nishikori beat Medvedev to win his first ATP title in nearly three years - and only the 12th of his career - a poor return for such a talent. But the world No 9, so often hampered by injury, will go to Melbourne buoyed by his form and fitness after winning 6-4, 3-6, 6-2 against one of the brightest young contenders in the field.

Nishikori, who had lost nine finals in a row, surrendered the first three games before taking six of the next seven and converting five of 15 break-point chances. Medvedev, who beat Nishikori in the Japan Open final in Tokyo last year, soaked up serious pressure to level at a set apiece. However, Nishikori broke for 3-1 in the third and stayed solid to win for the first time since he lifted the Memphis title in 2016.

The former world No 1 Karolina Pliskova also had to fight to win her 12th Tour title - and second in Brisbane - coming from a set and a break down to beat Lesia Tsurenko 4-6, 7-5, 6-2.

The world No 8 sensed victory when her Ukrainian opponent rolled her ankle at the start of the third set, and said later: "I think everything was against me today. I felt there is no chance I can win. I felt so far away from playing good tennis."

Pliskova becomes the third woman to win the event twice, after Victoria Azarenka (2009 and 2016) and Serena Williams (2013 and 2014).



Racing

Dino heads to Festival after his Plumpton masterclass

Chris Cook

Guillaume Macaire is one step closer to righting an old wrong, his Master Dino having enlivened yesterday's Plumpton card with a comfortable success that is part of his preparation for a tilt at the Cheltenham Festival.

The dominant force in French jump racing for many years, Macaire has never had a Festival winner, though his Jair Du Cochet looked the best horse in the Royal & SunAlliance Chase of 2003, despite finishing second.

Master Dino is now clear favourite for the Festival's JLT Novice Chase at 6-1 after staying on too strongly for Knockanuss to become one of the best horses ever seen at Plumpton. The runner-up had won his two previous races by wide margins and tried to repeat his familiar trick of burning off the opposition with a relentless gallop from the outset but the French raider proved his superior by seven lengths.

Plumpton's executive have long offered a £60,000 bonus to any horse that wins at the Festival after scoring at the Sussex venue but that was evidently no part of the attraction for Macaire. Rather he wanted Master Dino to have some experience of English fences and the English style of racing before returning for next month's Scilly Isles Chase, when Sandown's tricky Railway Fences will be an additional challenge.

Chris Cook's tips

- Musselburgh 12.50 Ontopoftheworld
1.25 Nefyn Point 1.55 Benny's Secret
2.25 Dance Of Fire 3.00 Ballycrystal Court
3.35 Alright Sunshine
- Chepstow 1.05 Love Lane 1.40 Sevarano
2.10 Sutter's Mill 2.40 Dickie Diver
3.15 Air De Rock 3.50 Cloudy Glen
- Wolverhampton 4.15 Piper Bomb
4.45 Followthesteps 5.15 Alaskan Bay
5.45 Given Choice 6.15 Kodi Koh (nb) 6.45 Goring
7.15 Peters Pudding 7.45 Zafaranah (nap)

▲ Master Dino passed his English test at Plumpton to become a strong contender at the Cheltenham Festival

"I'm very pleased," Macaire said, of the way his horse adapted. "He doesn't speak English, only French at the moment. He learns to speak English."

"It was not specially easy today, due to Gary Moore's horse, able to go very fast in front. But it was not a crazy pace; it was perfect."

Master Dino was careful at some early fences and had a good look when first presented at the one at the top of the back straight. A circuit later, however, Daryl Jacob asked him to attack the same obstacle and the horse immediately jumped into contention.

"Everything was against him today, the track, the ground," Jacob said, "and he still pulled up on top. The whole experience is what we wanted. He's passed it."

Master Dino is owned by Simon Munir and Isaac Souede, who have many horses based in both England and France. Macaire evidently rates this one a good bit higher than Terrefort, bought out of his yard last winter by the same owners and subsequently able to win the Scilly Isles and a Grade One at Aintree. Unlike Terrefort, Master Dino is to stay with Macaire.

Gordon Elliott's Glenloe could manage only a distant fifth behind Master Dino but the Irish trainer's more important work was at Naas, where he won a Grade One novice hurdle with Battleoverdoyen, who came home two and three-quarter lengths to the good. Now unbeaten in four career starts, Battleoverdoyen is 7-1 second-favourite for the Ballymore at the Festival.

'Everything was against him today, the track, the ground and he still pulled up on top'



Daryl Jacob
Master Dino's jockey



Sport
Rugby union Gallagher Premiership

Launchbury leads from front as Wasps bounce back into top six

Wasps 27
Northampton 16
Robert Kitson
Ricoh Arena

The future shape of English club rugby is again a subject of heated debate but for Wasps the soothing balm of this much-needed victory was all that mattered. After only one win in their previous 13 games they badly needed a confidence-building start to 2019 and the return of England's Joe Launch-

bury helped secure a result which, for now, puts them back in the top six. Alongside the outstanding Thomas Young, a deserved man of the match, the leadership of Launchbury was a crucial element in a significantly improved collective display against a Saints side who, before kick-off, had been licking their lips. Instead of sitting in fifth place heading into next month's Six Nations period Northampton now find themselves languishing in ninth. Such are the wafer-thin margins in the Premiership at present, with Saints' director of rugby, Chris Boyd, not disputing the view that Wasps looked hungrier than his team on the

day. "Maybe they were more desperate than we were," he acknowledged. "That's a pretty damning statement. We've got to find a way to avoid delivering flat performances." With Boyd also revealing England's co-captain Dylan Hartley is now unlikely to feature again for his club before the Six Nations because of a "grumbly knee", the national head coach, Eddie Jones, can at least take heart from the efforts of Launchbury, missing since mid-September with knee and neck problems, as well as Wasps' fit-again scrum-half Dan Robson, both of whom have spent a large chunk of the season on the sidelines. Should Wales need another in-form

openside at the World Cup they could also do themselves a favour by taking a fresh look at Young. "He has probably been our one consistent, stand-out player of the last couple of years," said Launchbury. "He was quality today but that's no different from the last few weeks." Three tries to one might sound like a relatively comfortable contest but it was never quite that simple on an afternoon perhaps most notable for several TMO calls which could easily have gone the other way. Young was denied a try in the third quarter when Nizaam Carr was adjudged to have taken out Lewis Ludlam fractionally off the ball only for the home side, leading 17-16, to benefit from the sort of luck which has latterly eluded them. As Cobus Reinach retreated to gather a Juan de Jongh chip near his own line the visiting scrum-half appeared to have touched down in goal before looking to keep playing, for reasons known only to himself. Things did not end well, with the giant wing

Taqele Naiyaravoro coughing up the ball to Willie le Roux who scored in the corner, leaving Boyd to bemoan the officials' failure to call a five-metre scrum. "Reinach clearly touched the ball down," said Boyd. "I'm not aware that you can ground the ball then play again. Someone should have realised that ball was grounded." It was one of those days for Saints all round. Wasps had scarcely any early territory or possession yet still found themselves 14-3 up after 24 minutes. Good hands from a more proactive Lima Sopoaga and Le Roux put Josh Basset over in the right corner for the first and their second also came against the run of play. De Jongh's grubber kick had seemed a shade too long but it sat up at the crucial moment, allowing the South African to nick the ball out of Ahsee Tuala's hands and cruise over unopposed. Saints, who have never won a league game in nearby Coventry, did claw back one slightly fortunate try when Le Roux fumbled a restart, offering Reinach the platform to unleash the strong-running Fraser Dingwall past Sopoaga and a static Le Roux. Otherwise they had to rely on the boot of Dan Biggar, their afternoon summed up when Luther Burrell dropped the ball over the line late on with a losing bonus point within reach. "Those critical moments pretty much all day went against us, but to be brutally honest we didn't deserve to win that game," admitted Boyd. His counterpart Dai Young, though, has been around long enough to celebrate timely progress when it materialises. Was that Wasps' best effort of the season? "Well, we haven't had too many good ones, have we?" came the dry retort. "We're unbeaten in 2019, that's the message now."



◀ The Wasps' and England lock Joe Launchbury flicks the ball off the top of a lineout, while playing a major role in the defeat of Northampton on his return from injury
PETER CZIBORRA/
ACTION IMAGES

Wasps	Northampton
Le Roux; Bassett, Campagnaro (Lovobalavu 77), De Jongh, Daly; Sopoaga, Robson; Zhvania (A Harris 67), Cruse, Cooper-Woolley (Stuart 67), Launchbury (capt), Rowlands (Myall 70), Shields, Young, Carr (Hughes 54)	Tuala; Collins (Kellaway 55), Dingwall, Burrell, Naiyaravoro; Biggar (Grayson 75), Reinach (Mitchell 62); Van Wyk (Waller 61), Marshall (Fish 61), Painter (Franks 61), Ribbans (Ratuniyarawa 56), Lawes, Wood (capt), Ludlam (Brussow 55), Harrison.
Tries Bassett, De Jongh, Le Roux Cons Sopoaga 3 Pens Sopoaga 2	Tries Dingwall Con Biggar. Pens Biggar 3

Referee Luke Pearce (RFU) Attendance 16,215

Exeter 14	Leicester 34	Sale 24	Newcastle 17	Worcester 21
Bristol 9	Gloucester 16	Saracens 18	Harlequins 38	Bath 19

Bristol's head coach, Pat Lam, has asked Twickenham to scrutinise the law governing the lineout, arguing Exeter are regularly awarded tries that should be penalties to their opponents. The Chiefs won the West Country derby with two tries that followed lineouts. Lam's gripe with the first was that the throw was not straight but his main complaint was with the second which turned into a driving maul. Lam wants the governing body to enforce the regulation which states that players who do not participate in a lineout have to remain behind the offside line until play crosses the 15-metre line (from touch), pointing out backs who join a maul before then are offside. HQ can expect another call. **Paul Rees**

As Johan Ackermann pointed out after Gloucester's defeat, it can be too simplistic to blame a loss on the absence of individuals, all the more so when they have a profile like Danny Cipriani's. But there can be little doubting Cipriani has been missed since he went down with a chest injury. Gloucester lost the match he was injured in, squeezed past Newcastle but have since lost to Sale and Leicester. On Saturday they performed far better than against the Sharks but the fly-half's direction was sorely missed and how Gloucester have underperformed in his absence should prove a powerful bargaining tool as he discusses a new contract. Gloucester cannot get him back soon enough. **Gerard Meagher**

Good news for Saracens and for Eddie Jones: Billy Vunipola is back, not yet fully match fit after almost three months out with another broken limb, but causing havoc again. The England No 8 scored a superb opening try and played the full 80 minutes of Friday's defeat at Sale. It was his first appearance since fracturing his left forearm against Glasgow in October and put him in line for England's Six Nations opener in Ireland on 2 February. Vunipola has started only three of England's past 23 Tests but an international return now seems inevitable. His teammate Richard Wigglesworth summed it up afterwards: "Billy deserves a bit of luck in the next few weeks." Amen to that. **Ross Heppenstall**

Mike Brown made a record-breaking 308th appearance for Harlequins at Newcastle on Saturday, eclipsing the previous record set by Grahame Murray in 1973. A thumping win was the perfect way to celebrate the landmark and, while Brown was his usual effervescent self, centre-stage went to blindside flanker Alex Dombandt. The 21-year-old from Croydon, dubbed "The Dominator", was all things to Paul Gustard's men: winning tackles at the breakdown, supporting the attack, cajoling his teammates. Inspiring. Dombandt is being talked up as an England candidate and it would be no surprise to see him make Eddie Jones's squad for the forthcoming Six Nations. **Ross Heppenstall**

The temptation to bend the rules must have been intense, but each time Bath lost a prop to the sin-bin they dutifully sent on another for a scrummaging contest they knew they could not win. Contrast with the 2017 shenanigans of France and Wales (after which the Wales coach Rob Howley felt the integrity of the game had been questioned by France's use of replacements) at the end of the only other finish to compare in recent years. Todd Blackadder has had his problems but when he looks you in the eye to say such gamesmanship never occurred to him you know you are talking to a man of integrity. We think it is the first time a squad has finished with more players off the pitch than on. **Michael Aylwin**

Premiership denies ‘war’ with RFU over relegation

Gerard Meagher

The Premiership clubs have moved to play down reports of a breakaway league and “a war” with the Rugby Football Union over ringfencing but relegation from the top flight remains a thorny issue for both parties.

It emerged yesterday that last April the club owners discussed the possibility of an “unregulated competition” if the RFU does not agree to scrap promotion and relegation. It is a nuclear option and highly unlikely to materialise – not least because it would jeopardise the eight-year Professional Game Agreement (PGA) signed by the clubs and the RFU in 2016, which guarantees Premiership Rugby £30m a year and England access to their players.

The clubs have long since been exploring ways to ringfence the top flight, however, and ultimately require the RFU’s approval to do so. Furthermore, some clubs, emboldened by the £230m investment from CVC, want to ringfence sooner rather than later but it is believed there is a degree of reluctance from the RFU to agree. Its stance may have softened – ironically when Premiership Rugby’s chairman, Ian Ritchie, was the RFU’s chief executive but was steadfastly against ringfencing – but the union does not want to be seen to be killing the aspirations of teams below the Premiership.

It is also considered the union’s most powerful bargaining chip with

‘I think it’s a bit precipitous to say that there’s a rift between us’

Ian Ritchie
Premiership Rugby chairman

the Premiership clubs. If the RFU agrees to get rid of promotion and relegation now, however, it has little left to bargain with in the future.

Yesterday both Ritchie and the RFU confirmed no proposals have yet been made. Ritchie told the BBC: “Like any board, you would expect to discuss issues like Premiership promotion and relegation, and we’ve been doing that for some time. To be clear, we’ve not put any proposals to them about this yet. And nor have we finalised our own. And I think it’s a bit precipitous to say that there’s a rift between us.”

There may be some acceptance that ringfencing in the longer term is inevitable – the RFU’s interim chief executive, Nigel Melville, last month suggested a 16-team two-conference format – but the union does not want to be dictated to by the clubs. When last month it emerged some clubs wanted to introduce ringfencing as early as this season Melville’s response was pointed. “Suddenly people want something to happen now. Well no, that’s not how it works.”

The verdict

- Team of the weekend**
- 15 **Mike Brown** *Harlequins*
 - 14 **Bryce Heem** *Worcester*
 - 13 **Sam James** *Sale*
 - 12 **Juan de Jongh** *Wasps*
 - 11 **Gabriel Ibitoye** *Harlequins*
 - 10 **George Ford** *Leicester*
 - 9 **Danny Care** *Harlequins*
 - 1 **Ross Harrison** *Sale*
 - 2 **Max Crumpton** *Harlequins*
 - 3 **Dan Cole** *Leicester*
 - 4 **Jonny Hill** *Exeter*
 - 5 **Graham Kitchener** *Leicester*
 - 6 **Thomas Young** *Wasps*
 - 7 **Tom Curry** *Sale*
 - 8 **Ben Morgan** *Gloucester*

Blake to make Tigers return

Geordan Murphy all but confirmed the return to the Leicester coaching staff of Phil Blake over the weekend. The former rugby league player initially joined the club as defence coach in 2014 but left just a year later following a six-month suspension for breaching the Rugby Football Union’s betting rules. He has also worked as a defence coach for Wasps since leaving Welford Road but was spotted during Saturday’s 34-16 victory over Gloucester wearing a Leicester tracksuit. “Now Phil’s come around and we’re just sorting out the final nuts and bolts,” said Murphy.



Compiled by Gerard Meagher



Football Women's Super League

Van de Donk double guides Arsenal through torrid test

West Ham	2
Ross 11 43	
Arsenal	4
Williamson 26, Arnth 31, Van de Donk 59 65	

Suzanne Wrack
Rush Green

The Arsenal manager, Joe Montemurro, expressed his frustration at conceding two goals as Arsenal had to come from behind at Rush Green to beat West Ham 4-2.

“It’s frustrating that we copped two goals,” said Montemurro. “They were set pieces, goal-kicks, and we’ve not had a problem with those all season but for some reason we got our shape wrong. It’s crazy but that’s football.”

Two goals from Daniëlle van de Donk and a debut goal from Janni Arnth helped Arsenal make up for their defensive fragility to gain a second testing victory against the Hammers.

And the manager was pleased with the performance of the Danish defender Arnth, who was handed her first start: “It was evident that she is an experienced defender. She controlled her area, her passing was fantastic, her final pass was fantastic and that’s what we want.”

Arnth has been brought in along with Katrine Veje from Montpellier to help shore up a heavily depleted

squad. “It’s well-noted the number of players we’ve got in rehab and coming back,” Montemurro said. “I think they were all sitting in the grandstand. There were seven of them. That’s a million-dollar bench there. It’s crazy. They’re all slowly coming back.”

The injury-hit Gunners’ unbeaten run collapsed against their title rivals Manchester City at the start of December – their last league outing – and they needed a bright start. With Kim Little back in the starting XI 84 days after sustaining a broken tibia, and Arnth also on the pitch, the Arsenal lineup looked a little more robust after the winter break.

A cautious opening 10 minutes was eventually enlivened by a West Ham goal. With Alisha Lehmann and Brianna Visalli putting in impressive shifts out wide in a front three, Lehmann’s curling cross found the former Manchester City forward Jane Ross at the far post and she swept in to put the Hammers ahead.

West Ham’s manager, Matt Beard, is also struggling with a lengthy injury list. “This game was probably a week too soon for us with the injuries that we’ve got; we had only one fit sub on the bench today,” he said. “That highlights the issues we have. We had to adjust a few things. Yesterday Julia Simic broke down which was a big blow for us because she’s been pulling the strings in midfield and we missed

that a bit today, that little bit of composure, keeping the ball and linking up.”

But with two signings coming in this week who will be available to face Manchester City next weekend, and having tested the league leaders, it is not all doom and gloom.

“I think we’re looking at the champions in Arsenal. Both games this season we’ve given them a run for their money. We can take a lot of heart from the performance today.”

Beth Mead’s corner was powered into the top-right of Becky Spencer’s goal off the head of her fellow England international Leah Williamson to give Arsenal their equaliser and the Gunners then cranked up the pressure. A Spencer double-save from Vivianne Miedema after some nice work by Mead on the left kept the sides level but moments later Arnth headed home from another Mead corner to give the visitors the lead.

As half-time approached, Arsenal were punished for their profligacy. A goal-kick from Spencer was flicked on by Visalli to Ross who, catching Katie McCabe out of position, sprinted clear and swept the ball past Pauline Peyraud-Magnin.

Undeterred, Arsenal continued to raise the tempo after the break. In the 59th minute they regained the lead as a McCabe ball across goal found Van de Donk, who poked home at the back post.

She then took her WSL tally to 10 for the season. A cleared Mead corner was returned to the forward by Little and a second cross was headed home by Van de Donk.

▲ Daniëlle van de Donk (third right) rises to head in her second goal
TGSPHOTO/REX/SHUTTERSTOCK

Round-up City lose ground in title race

Manchester City fell two points behind leaders Arsenal, who have a game in hand, as they were pegged back by **Bristol City**. Nikita Parris’s 11th league goal of the season was cancelled out by Lucy Graham’s second-half penalty, following a foul by Jen Beattie.

Beth England scored in the sixth minute before **Chelsea** ran out 3-0 victors over **Everton**. Drew Spence and Hannah Blundell’s second-half goals

secured victory. Chelsea remain third, five points behind Arsenal.

Birmingham kept pace with Chelsea after Meagan Sargeant headed in Lucy Staniforth’s free-kick in the 89th minute for a 2-1 home win against **Reading**. Kerys Harrop opened the scoring but Remi Allen levelled things one minute before Sargeant’s winner. Ini Umotong scored as **Brighton** defeated **Liverpool** 2-0 – their second win of the season.

West Ham Women 4-3-3 Spencer; Percival, Hendrix, Flaherty, Rafferty; Sampson, Reichardt, Longhurst; Visalli, Ross, Lehmann Subs not used Simic, Moorehouse, Kmita, Kiernan, Simon	Arsenal Women 4-3-3 Peyraud-Magnin; Evans (Quinn 83), Williamson, Arnth, McCabe; Bloodworth, Walti, Little (Kuyken 90); Van de Donk Subs not used Miedema, Mead, Van Veenendaal, Mitchell, Grant, Bailey-Gayle
Referee Will Finnie Attendance 913	

'We're very, very careful that we don't sell dreams to our boys'

The Kinetic Academy in south London has produced 33 professional players but keeping youngsters out of trouble and into helping communities is its real focus

Ed Aarons

When you're 15 or 16 sometimes you're not mature enough to make the right decisions - you just act without thinking," says Joe Aribio. "Kinetic helps to teach you how to act in those circumstances and take responsibility for your actions on and off the pitch. A lot of kids are being forgotten about but this is something really positive."

It's now seven years since the Charlton midfielder became part of the Kinetic Academy's first-ever intake following a trial at his school in Mitcham, south London. Set up in the aftermath of the 2011 London riots by former Crystal Palace coach Harry Hudson, the initiative has so far helped 33 young players from some of London's most deprived areas earn professional contracts. But as well as rising stars like Aribio, Sunderland's Josh Maja and Manchester City youngster Yeboah Amankwah, who signed

a professional contract at the Premier League champions last year, Hudson is just as proud of the hundreds of other boys that don't make the grade. "We're very, very careful that we don't sell dreams," he explains. "We have been successful in producing professional footballers but we would never say to a boy: 'Come here and you will definitely make it.' You just don't know. There's so many factors involved but what is important is that their experiences broaden their horizons in general. You have to trust in the process."

That is a lesson that Aribio can certainly relate to. Having progressed through Kinetic's youth sides, he was signed by former Wimbledon striker Marcus Gayle for non-league side Staines Town at the age of 19 before finally being snapped up by Charlton a year later. He has since become a regular first-team player at the Valley and has even been compared to Patrick

Vieira and Dele Alli by former manager Karl Robinson.

"Kinetic helped me a lot because I was really timid and shy when I first started coming here and they brought that out of me," he says. "I've really developed as a player but as a person as well. I'm always telling younger players that at one stage I was going to stop playing altogether, so I'm really glad that I stuck at it. That and my family's support has given me the hunger to succeed."

Kinetic now run teams from under-12s to under-19s and have more than 100 boys on their full-time programme for 16-18 year-olds, which sees them play football six days a week and complete 12 hours of education. Students are offered a full range of qualifications in partnership with nearby Woodcote School - from entry level BTec up to A-levels - while Hudson, 29, estimates that a series of community projects which also include a new netball scheme allows them to reach up to 700 young people a week in an area which has been blighted by knife crime in recent years.

"When the [2011] riots happened, we realised from working with some of the gangs how much impact you

'After the 2011 riots we realised from working with gangs how much impact you can have'





▲ Josh Maja playing for Kinetic Academy. The 20-year-old has scored 15 goals for Sunderland this season and is attracting interest from Premier League clubs

can have,” he says. “If you go to any estate in south London you will see people playing football. Our model takes a kind of carrot and stick approach: they want to play football and we can give the best chance possible to help them achieve that dream. In exchange, they have to complete their education and three hours of volunteering in their community if they are part of the programme. We try to have a relationship with young people where they trust us and we become positive role models for them. When they arrive, they want to be a pro. But we slowly start to open their eyes as to what else their talents can be used for to try and create positive change in their lives.”

Hudson estimates that more than 90% of his players come from disadvantaged backgrounds, with many having been released by professional clubs somewhere along the line. A partnership with local non-league side Croydon FC that allows young players the opportunity to prove themselves in senior football has also helped to attract prospective talent, as has Hudson’s role as manager of Isthmian League South East Division side Whyteleafe.

“For every success story, there are another 10 to 15 young people who never get back into the system,” he says. “But they all need additional support – they struggle quite a lot with their self-esteem because when a club releases them, there is no accountability for what happens next. I’ve worked at five professional clubs and there is no follow-up procedure. It’s simply: ‘You’re not right for us, good luck for the future.’ It’s organisations like ours that have to try and pick these players up.”

Hudson adds: “Until the age of 15, they build them up to believe they are going to be a professional player and surround them with all the materialistic elements which they unfortunately strive towards – the fast cars, nice clothes, jewellery – so they have that aspiration. The clubs often take them away from school at an early age, which really has a negative impact on the value a young person really applies to their education because they think: ‘Well, if they are taking me out of

◀ Kinetic Academy’s Harry Hudson (left) with Charlton’s Joe Aribó
GRAEME ROBERTSON/GUARDIAN

Kinetic’s alumni

Joe Aribó Charlton

Midfielder has made 22 league appearances this season and is being watched by Championship clubs.

Myles Kenlock Ipswich Town

Defender joined Ipswich in 2014 and is approaching 50 appearances.

Wes Fonguck Barnet

The central midfielder won first England C cap in September.

Omar Richards Reading

Lewisham-born defender has been with Royals since 2013.

Ali Koiki Burnley

The 18-year-old left-back signed his first professional deal last year.

Josh Maja Sunderland

Striker has 14 league goals this season but has refused to sign a new deal with Sunderland.

Yeboah Amankwah Man City

Spotted by City’s scouts while he was still at Kinetic, the 18-year-old defender is tipped for big things.

school now, I don’t need it? When they are released at 15 with the aspirations for the highest earnings possible, the only options open to them are earning £8 an hour stacking shelves in Sainsbury’s or the gang environment, which ends up being more appealing to someone with those materialistic values. They think: ‘Well I can earn 15 grand a year and never be able to drive a Mercedes or I can go and sell drugs and have all of that.’ They are very impressionable and that is a root cause of many social problems.”

But while delighted with the success of Aribó and that of Maja, who spent 18 months at Kinetic after he was released by Fulham at 15 and is now wanted by several Premier League clubs, Hudson admits Kinetic actually lose money when a player joins a professional club because they rely heavily on funding from educational grants.

“We’re trying to work out how we alter that,” he admits. “As a society as a whole, we often throw money at an issue to try and make things better but the fundamental thing is the relationship you have with these kids – you’ve got a far better chance of actually reaching them if they trust you. The problem isn’t knife crime – the problem is the social unrest and the outcome is the knife crime. We need to try to change that as a country as a whole.”

Emirates FA Cup third round

Keita’s influence will improve with confidence, says Klopp

Andy Hunter

Jürgen Klopp has said Naby Keita will become a major influence at Liverpool but must perform with more confidence to recapture the form that prompted his £52.75m move to Anfield.

The Guinea international midfielder is expected to start at Wolverhampton Wanderers in the FA Cup third round today when Klopp will make several changes following an intense festive period. The expensive summer recruit has not featured since the 2-0 win at Molineux on 21 December, when the 23-year-old was substituted due to injury, although he was fit for the matches against Newcastle, Arsenal and Manchester City.

Keita has made 10 starts in all competitions for Liverpool this season and, though minor injuries have hindered his impact on Klopp’s team, the manager admits tactics and form have also limited the player’s opportunities.

‘Is he exactly the player in his best time at Leipzig? No. He is still adapting’

Jürgen Klopp

“It was not an injury, no, it’s just how it is sometimes,” said the Liverpool manager on the midfielder’s recent absence. “I spoke to Naby. Everything is fine. I am completely happy with Naby but could he be a bit more confident in the games? Yes. Is he exactly the player in his best time at Leipzig? No. He is still adapting, that’s how it is.

“Everyone saw at the beginning of the season how brilliant he played. Tottenham was a fantastic game from him. We made a change around the PSG game, I don’t know when exactly, and the boys have to deal with it. A little injury here, a little injury there, and it



◀ Naby Keita passes Matteo Darmian in Liverpool’s victory over Manchester United at Anfield last month

ROBBIE JAY BARRATT/AMA/GETTY IMAGES

Football In brief

Manchester United

Pogba’s departure to Dubai delayed by injury

Paul Pogba has not travelled with his Manchester United teammates to Dubai for a week of warm-weather training because of a leg injury, though the club expect him to join the rest of the squad this week. The Frenchman suffered the problem after a second-half challenge by Newcastle United’s Jonjo Shelvey in Wednesday’s 2-0 win at St James’ Park. The injury ruled Pogba out of the 2-0 win over Reading at Old Trafford in the FA Cup third round on Saturday, although he is expected to be fit to face Tottenham at Wembley on Sunday. A club statement yesterday said: “Paul



▲ Paul Pogba is expected to join his teammates in Dubai later this week

Pogba has not completely recovered from the knock he sustained against Newcastle and stayed back for treatment, but he will join his Manchester United teammates in Dubai soon in preparation for the Tottenham game.” **Jamie Jackson**

Celtic

Griffiths says absence is down to mental health

The Celtic striker Leigh Griffiths says it is “laughable” to suggest he is on leave because of problems with gambling or drugs. The Scotland international was last month given time off by the club to deal with issues outside of football. Griffiths tweeted: “I just want to settle one thing. I am off work due to my mental health state.” **PA**

Asian Cup

India make history as Chhetri goes past Messi

India have recorded their first win at the Asian Cup since 1964 after two goals from captain Sunil Chhetri helped them defeat Thailand, and saw him overtake Lionel Messi to become the second highest-scoring active international. **Guardian sport**

Weekend at a glance

Player of the weekend Peter Clarke

Oldham Athletic
Peter Clarke signed his first contract when Oldham matchwinner Callum Lang was three months old. The 37-year-old kept Fulham's expensive side as quiet as a mouse in a remarkable win for the League Two Latics.

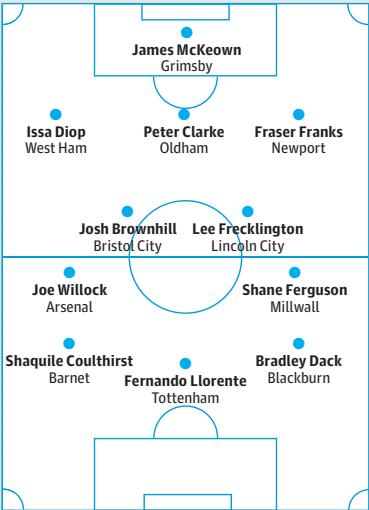


ANDREW COULDRIIDGE/ACTION IMAGES VIA REUTERS

Stats with a story

- Sheffield United's defeat to Barnet was the first time they had lost at home to a non-league team since 1911. That year, Darlington beat them 1-0 in the first round.
- Ipswich's defeat to Accrington means they've been knocked out in the third round for the ninth season running. The last FA Cup game they won was against Blackpool in 2010.
- Tottenham's 7-0 win over Tranmere on Friday night was their biggest FA Cup victory since they beat Crewe 13-2 in 1960. That was a replay: the first game ended 2-2.
- Andre Green came off the bench to score Portsmouth's winner against Norwich in injury time - which is the second time he has done that in this season's competition.
- John Marquis's goal for Doncaster in their 3-1 win over Preston took him to 19 for the season, which is only matched by one other player in the top four divisions: Harry Kane.

Team of the weekend



Blackpool0

Arsenal3

Willock 11 37, Iwobi 82

Bristol City1

Huddersfield0

Brownhill 72

Crystal Palace1

Grimsby0

Ayew 86

Chelsea2

Nottingham Forest0

Morata 49 59

Derby2

Southampton2

Marriott 58, Lawrence 61

Referee Mike Dean Attendance 8,955
There should have been two 19-year-olds on the scoresheet for Arsenal at Bloomfield Road as the young players entrusted by Unai Emery impressed against Blackpool. Joe Willock, the England Under-20 midfielder, seized his opportunities with two goals that owed much to sharp reactions and good awareness, and was only denied a first Arsenal hat-trick by a correct offside decision. His fellow teenager, Eddie Nketiah, was nowhere near as clinical, missing three presentable chances before half-time, and yet this remained a promising display from the Lewisham-born forward. Nketiah's pace, movement and first touch all stood out against the League One side. As did his refusal to allow the misses to effect his contribution. He was replaced by Alexandre Lacazette in the 64th minute, a reminder of the obstacles in the way. **Andy Hunter**

Man of the match
Joe Willock Arsenal

Referee Peter Banks Attendance 12,178
David Wagner was chuckling before the reporter had finished asking a question that started with the words: "Luckily you're in a January transfer window so you can bring players into the club..." The Huddersfield manager, bringing a touch of reality to it all, replied: "Theoretically this is correct. Everybody knows the circumstances which we have in our football club, that we financially are not at the top of the hierarchy." His team are bottom of the Premier League and eight points from safety. The German added: "We will see what we can make happen or not make happen." A chastening FA Cup exit at Bristol City made it nine successive defeats and there have been only two victories all season, suggesting the board needs to make as much as possible happen in this window to give Wagner a fighting chance, with a proven goalscorer surely the priority. **Stuart James**

Man of the match
Josh Brownhill Bristol City

Referee Martin Atkinson Attendance 19,967
If Roy Hodgson's mood was anything to go by after his side edged past a valiant 10-man Grimsby, thanks to Jordan Ayew's second goal in as many games, then this could be a long month for the Crystal Palace manager. Having pulled out of a loan deal to sign Dominic Solanke from Liverpool, finding a striker remains imperative given Alexander Sørloth's travails in front of goal, although the impending return of Christian Benteke and Ayew's sudden burst of form may give them some breathing space. The Ghana forward now looks likely to have his loan extended until the end of the season, while Hodgson claimed not to have even heard of Sunderland's Josh Maja after he was linked with the club last week. "His name's not been mentioned to me," said the former England manager. "I don't spend my time watching Sunderland play." **Ed Aarons**

Man of the match
James McKeown Grimsby

Referee Andrew Madley Attendance 40,544
Chelsea were busily insisting the deal was not yet done, but the tears of Cesc Fàbregas as he left the Stamford Bridge pitch and the assorted tributes from colleagues suggested otherwise. He played what is almost certain to be his last game for the club against Nottingham Forest on Saturday before leaving for Monaco, but even though he has been a peripheral figure you wonder about the wisdom of letting him go mid-season. The Catalan has served as the primary back-up to Jorginho as the deep-lying playmaker, perhaps the most important role in Maurizio Sarri's system. "It would be really a problem without Cesc," said Sarri a few weeks ago, probably because the alternatives are the talented but extremely raw Ethan Ampadu and, erm, David Luiz? "You need a minimum 20 players to rotate," said the Brazilian. **Nick Miller**

Man of the match
Callum Hudson-Odoi Chelsea

Referee Oliver Langford Attendance 17,095
It felt unusual to hear Frank Lampard behaving like a typical manager on Saturday, offering up - if not quite excuses - then mitigation for his side. Derby travel to Leeds this weekend before replaying their FA Cup tie with Southampton and Lampard wanted it known that his squad will be stretched as his sixth-placed Rams look to hold on to their Championship play-off spot. "We're going into a really important phase now, and it's going to be test after test", said Lampard. "We're going to be competing against tough sides and just behind us are Aston Villa and Stoke with big budgets. I had to give Mason Mount a rest today, but I only have two centre-halves, so they're playing. I'm not crying, I took this job knowing what it was. Spending the most money doesn't mean you'll win, but I do fear the tiredness and I'm not the only one saying that." **Paul MacInnes**

Man of the match
Nathan Redmond Southampton



PROSPORTS/REX/SHUTTERSTOCK

Goal of the weekend

Lewis Wing
Middlesbrough
v Peterborough

Tony Pulis gave some of his young players a run out against Peterborough, and his decision to include Lewis Wing among them paid off handsomely. Wing let fly from 30 yards and the ball swerved and dipped its way into the top corner. A pleasing flourish to Boro’s 5-0 victory.



Number of the weekend

Holders Chelsea avoided calamity against Nottingham Forest to record their 21st straight third round win

21



▲ Third-round giantkillers Newport County are number 16 in the draw

Fourth-round draw

The last-32 pairings will be drawn tonight after the televised match between Wolves and Liverpool on BBC1. **Robbie Keane**, who played for both teams, shares draw duties with the former Wolves goalkeeper **Carl Ikeme**.

The numbers:

1 Bolton; **2** Millwall; **3** Gillingham; **4** Brentford; **5** Sheffield Wednesday or Luton Town; **6** Manchester United; **7** Everton; **8** Tottenham; **9** Doncaster Rovers; **10** Newcastle United or Blackburn Rovers; **11** Chelsea; **12** Crystal Palace; **13** Derby County or Southampton; **14** Accrington Stanley; **15** Bristol City; **16** Newport County; **17** Oldham Athletic; **18** Shrewsbury or Stoke City; **19** Arsenal; **20** Manchester City; **21** Brighton and Hove Albion; **22** West Ham United; **23** Watford; **24** Burnley; **25** QPR; **26** Barnet; **27** Portsmouth; **28** AFC Wimbledon; **29** West Bromwich Albion; **30** Middlesbrough; **31** Wolverhampton Wanderers or Liverpool; **32** Swansea City
Fourth-round ties will take place between 25-28 January.

Everton 2
Lookman 12 Bernard 14

Lincoln 1
Bostwick 28

Referee John Brooks Attendance 37,900
In an ideal world, Marco Silva would not have introduced André Gomes as a half-time substitute on Saturday. The Portugal midfielder has looked tired in recent games and this was a much-needed opportunity for him to rest, but Everton needed to re-establish control against Lincoln City and so on he came. That he replaced Tom Davies was no great surprise given the 20-year-old’s largely ineffective display up to then. It was not the first time either from a boyhood Evertonian who, like Ross Barkley before him, is in danger of losing his way at Goodison Park. Davies, with nine Premier League appearances this season, looked the real deal under Ronald Koeman but, two permanent managers later, the picture is very different and having not grasped the opportunity afforded to him on Saturday it is possible he may not get another one soon. **Sachin Nakrani**

Man of the match
Lee Frecklington Lincoln

Manchester United 2
Mata 22pen, Lukaku 45

Reading 0

Referee Stuart Attwell Attendance 73,918
Ole Gunnar Solskjær will enjoy a week of warm-weather training in Dubai with Manchester United feeling his players believe they can now finish in a Champions League berth. Saturday’s 2-0 win over Reading was a fifth consecutive victory as caretaker manager but after closing the gap to six points to Chelsea, fourth place is Solskjær’s prime target. “I think the players are getting confidence and the feeling that we have momentum,” he said. How United fare in Sunday’s trip to third-placed Tottenham will provide the best barometer yet of where United are. “They’ve performed really well over a few years now and they’ve been towards the top of the league,” said the Norwegian. “You’ve got Harry Kane, one of the best strikers in the world, Christian Eriksen, Son Heung-min, Dele Alli – and we have to look at how we play against them.” **Jamie Jackson**

Man of the match
Juan Mata Manchester United

Newcastle 1
Ritchie 85pen

Blackburn 1
Dack 56

Referee Kevin Friend Attendance 36,440
Hats off to Blackburn’s impressive Bradley Dack and Charlie Mulgrew for raising the tone but the reality is that most drama at Newcastle occurs off the pitch these days. Unfortunately it tends to be of the tragi-comic variety. For instance, the weekend saw an orchestrated leaking of a letter from Peter Kenyon to Mike Ashley saying he hopes his consortium will be offered more time to try to buy out Newcastle. Then there is the separate suggestion the two consortiums headed by Kenyon and Garry Cook might somehow govern the club, coalition style. Maybe Kenyon and Cook could be joint chief executives? Meanwhile, Rafael Benítez seems under pressure to sign a one-year extension – his current deal expires in May – in exchange for Ashley buying some new players this month. Benítez will not relish next week’s Ewood Park replay. **Louise Taylor**

Man of the match
Bradley Dack Blackburn

West Ham 2
Arnautovic 2, Carroll 90

Birmingham 0

Referee Roger East Attendance 54,840
It was tricky to assess Andy Carroll’s performance in West Ham’s nervy victory. On the one hand it was a typical piece of Carroll play that settled the tie, with the Birmingham defence powerless to stop the big man from rising to score his first goal since last April, and in those moments it is easy to understand why the 30-year-old might yet win over Manuel Pellegrini. The forward’s injury record will count against him when West Ham decide whether to renew his contract in the summer, but the sight of him soaring above a cowering defence remains something of a guilty pleasure. Before his goal, however, Carroll had infuriated the crowd with poor hold-up play and two woeful misses with his feet. His case for a new deal did not feel that strong when he made a farcical hash of trying to round Lee Camp, Birmingham’s goalkeeper. **Jacob Steinberg**

Man of the match
Issa Diop West Ham

Wolves



Liverpool



Today 7.45pm BBC One
Venue Molineux
Referee Paul Tierney
Odds H3-1 A5-6 D9-4

Jürgen Klopp has the chance to ring the changes and perhaps illustrate the stark contrast between his squad depth and Manchester City’s as Liverpool head to Molineux tonight. In the first game since his side surrendered their unbeaten record in the Premier League, Klopp’s much-changed team will head to Molineux aiming to replicate their 2-0 win last month. The goalscorers on that night – Mohamed Salah and Virgil van Dijk – could be set for a night off as Klopp considers giving his players an FA Cup rest. Naby Keïta and Adam Lallana look likely to come in while Fabinho could deputise at centre-half with defensive reinforcements lacking. Simon Mignolet and Alberto Moreno will start. Rúben Vinagre and Morgan Gibbs-White are expected to feature for Wolves in the televised third-round tie. **Mark Dobson**

Sport

Football Emirates FA Cup third round

▼ Heurelho Gomes gets down to deny Ben Gerring a goal for Woking
TOM JENKINS/GUARDIAN

De Bruyne pulls strings in City's show of strength

Manchester City 7

Sterling 12, Foden 43, Ajayi 45og, Jesus 53, Mahrez 73, Otamendi 78, Sané 85

Rotherham 0

Jamie Jackson

Etihad Stadium

Manchester City required only low gear to rout Rotherham United 7-0 and coast into the fourth round of the FA Cup by the highest margin of victory of the Pep Guardiola reign.

Riyad Mahrez's 73rd-minute finish was indicative of the contest. When Guardiola's men wanted to they could inject extra quality and score. So it was when City roved forward and split their visitors apart, Ilkay Gündogan's pass being finished superbly by the Algerian to make it 5-0.

The standout performer was Kevin De Bruyne, who was making a first start in nearly three weeks following injury. It was only a 10th appearance of the season due to two previous serious knee problems. Guardiola indicated that, if De Bruyne can remain fit, then City will be even stronger in the latter part of their campaign.

"Without him last season would not have been possible," Guardiola said of the 100-point, record title triumph. "[Without him] we have done incredible in terms of results. We have an opponent [Liverpool] that has done better than us. That can happen. We were two seasons without [Benjamin] Mendy. We do not have a substitute for the left-back. He [De Bruyne] is going to give us extra, the creativity in the final third.

"He played an incredible game, created a lot of chances and he has the vision to see what other people cannot see. Last season he played an incredible number of minutes and this season it is just 400 minutes when everyone else plays 2,000."

Guardiola made eight changes from Thursday's win over Liverpool here, retaining only Ederson, John Stones and Raheem Sterling. An early De

Bruyne chip should have been headed in by Gabriel Jesus but from close range he hit the bar. Later Sterling ran through but Semi Ajayi did enough to end the danger; then Mahrez smacked the ball over from the right but no blue shirt could finish.

Soon City did strike. Sterling passed to De Bruyne along the left and, on continuing his run, received the ball back: his finish was precise beyond Marek Rodak.

After the half-hour a De Bruyne ball came to Jesus but, again, he lacked composure and miskicked. Before this City had a real scare. Nicolás Otamendi sold Ederson short with a back-pass and the goalkeeper sold Stones shorter, the latter scrambling hard to touch the ball to safety.

This prefaced a late first-half Rotherham flurry of goalmouth action as Ederson had to punch one high ball away in an action that left Jon Taylor and Stones floored momentarily. But, then, Phil Foden showed a killer if lucky touch from a neat Gündogan lob, his attempted control proving a stabbed finish that wrong-footed Rodak.

If this made it hard for the Millers, what occurred in added time put them to bed. Kyle Walker rolled in a cross and, with Sterling pressuring him, the unfortunate Ajayi turned the ball into his own net.

If these two goals in two minutes had not put Rotherham in damage limitation mode, a fourth City goal soon after the interval surely did. This was made by a swift Sterling run that made a mug of Joe Mattock before an impressive lay-off to Jesus: this time the Brazilian could not miss.

When De Bruyne, relentlessly creative, fashioned the next opportunity Jesus did spurn it as the ball ran between his legs. It marked the end of the Belgian's thoroughbred contribution as Guardiola replaced him on 67 minutes with Philippe Sandler, the 21-year-old making his debut.

Late on Otamendi headed home a Gündogan corner and Leroy Sané, who had replaced Sterling before the hour-mark, hit the seventh. "I'm pleased the final whistle came," said Rotherham's manager, Paul Warne.

Manchester City 4-1-4-1 Ederson; Walker, Stones (Danilo 75), Otamendi, Zinchenko; Gündogan; Mahrez, De Bruyne (Sandler 67), Foden, Sterling (Sané 57); Jesus Subs not used Muric, Laporte, B Silva, Fernandinho	Rotherham 4-5-1 Rodak; Vyner (Wood 89), Robertson, Ajayi, Mattock; Wiles, Vaulks, Forde, Williams (Palmer 89), Taylor (Raggett 74); Smith Subs not used Price, Newell, Jones
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Referee David Coote Attendance 52,708



▲ Phil Foden (left) is congratulated after scoring Manchester City's second goal
OLI SCARFF/AFP/GETTY IMAGES



Deeney taps in for win but old Cup romance keeps Woking warm

Woking 0

Watford 2

Hughes 13, Deeney 74

David Hytner

Kingfield Stadium

At Woking, they still talk about the FA Cup third-round win at West Brom in 1991, which was fired by Tim Buzaglo's hat-trick. It was surely the highlight of the non-league club's 130-year history, even if there have been other heady days in the Cup, including the third-round draw at Coventry in 1997, who were then in the Premier League.

This tie had the potential to top everything. Woking had never beaten top-flight opposition - West Brom were in the old Division Two when they were unhinged - but the Surrey club's fanbase had been overtaken by Cup fever. They could feel it was going to be their day.

Then reality intervened. Watford took an early lead through Will Hughes and they were never extended. Troy Deeney, on as a second-half substitute, scored the second and it was difficult to pinpoint many moments when Woking threatened. Watford's superior class told.

Yet it was still a day to feel the glow of FA Cup romance. The competition is too predictable; it has had its day? Do not say that to Alan Dowson, the old-school Woking manager, whose north-east tones remain loud and proud. He talked of his thrill at seeing Kingfield sold out, of his young players coming up against established professionals (even if Javi Gracia made 11 changes) and of the uplift that the tie has brought to this corner of England.

The estimated £300,000 windfall will help, too, with Dowson saying

it would allow him to "build a club". Woking's annual player budget is roughly £300,000. Yet it was not long before Dowson moved into more light-hearted territory. "What's the first thing I'll buy? A kettle for my office," he said. "At the moment, I have to walk about 20 miles for a cup of tea. It took me three months to get a heater."

If Dowson is a throwback, then so was the feel of this afternoon. "The fan interaction when we walked from the team bus to the changing room - you don't get that in the Premier League," Tom Cleverley, the Watford midfielder, said. "But it's nice. All of us have come from working-class backgrounds and we've gone out on loan to lower league clubs."

Fan interaction? "It was just the usual banter," Cleverley said, with a smile. "You can't take it too



'I'll get lashed tonight in the working men's club with darts and pool, and then I'll be back in tomorrow'

Alan Dowson

'The fan interaction from the team bus to the changing room - you don't get that in the Premier League'

Tom Cleverley



personally." Cleverley knows a bit about Woking. His great uncle, Reg Stratton, was one of the club's greatest icons, having scored for them in their 1958 FA Amateur Cup triumph at Wembley.

Woking sit second in the National League South, the sixth tier of the English game, while Watford are eighth in the Premier League and the gulf in technical quality was clear. "We've got the ball," Woking's fans chorused, ironically, in the 17th minute, which rather caught the mood.

Hughes's goal was superbly taken - a low finish whipped first-time into the bottom corner from Adam Masina's pull-back from a corner. It was, though, a soft one for Woking to concede. Watford did not have to work too hard to outmanoeuvre them.

The home crowd were all over any flicker from their players but there were not too many. Ben Gerring worked Heurelho Gomes with a first-half header while the substitute Harvey Bradley headed over late on.

Watford made sure of their progress when one substitute, Ken Sema, crossed for another, Deeney, to tap home.

There was a classic moment when Success accidentally bundled into the linesman, Stephen Child, to send him toppling over the advertising boards in front of Moaners' Corner. But the takeaway of the day? Surely Dowson's reaction to Gracia's post-match gift.

"I gave him a bottle of Newcastle Brown Ale and he gave me one of his sangrias," Dowson said. "The sangria was that small. I thought he was a bit tight."

"I'll get lashed tonight in the working men's club with darts and pool, and then I'll be back in tomorrow. I'm not into wine bars and that rubbish. I like to see proper people."

Woking 4-2-3-1 Ross; Collier, Gerring, Cook, Casey; Taylor (Little 60), Jolley; Luer (Hodges 69), Edser (Bradley 69), Loza; Hyde Subs not used Hester-Cook, Wheeler, Schotteri, Spence	Watford 4-3-3 Gomes; Janmaat, Wilmot, Britos, Masina; Cleverley, Chalobah, Quina; Hughes (Ceciliano 80), Success (Deeney 71), Peñaranda (Sema 71) Subs not used Mariappa, Deulofeu, Femenia, Dahlberg
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Referee Graham Scott Attendance 5,717

Amond applies gloss after Matt's finish stuns Leicester

Newport County 2

Matt 10, Amond 85pen

Leicester City 1

Ghezzal 82

Stuart James

Rodney Parade

The magic of the FA Cup is alive and well in this corner of south Wales. Newport County, 74 places below Leicester City on the league ladder, served up a giantkilling that will be talked about for years to come in these parts as Jamille Matt and Pádraig Amond scored the goals that inflicted a humiliating defeat on Claude Puel's side.

There were wild scenes at the final whistle as Newport celebrated their first victory over top-flight opposition in the FA Cup since 1964. Michael Flynn, the Newport manager, was walking around the pitch with his son on his shoulders come the end and there was a mixture of jubilation and disbelief among the home supporters as they departed with a spring in their step.

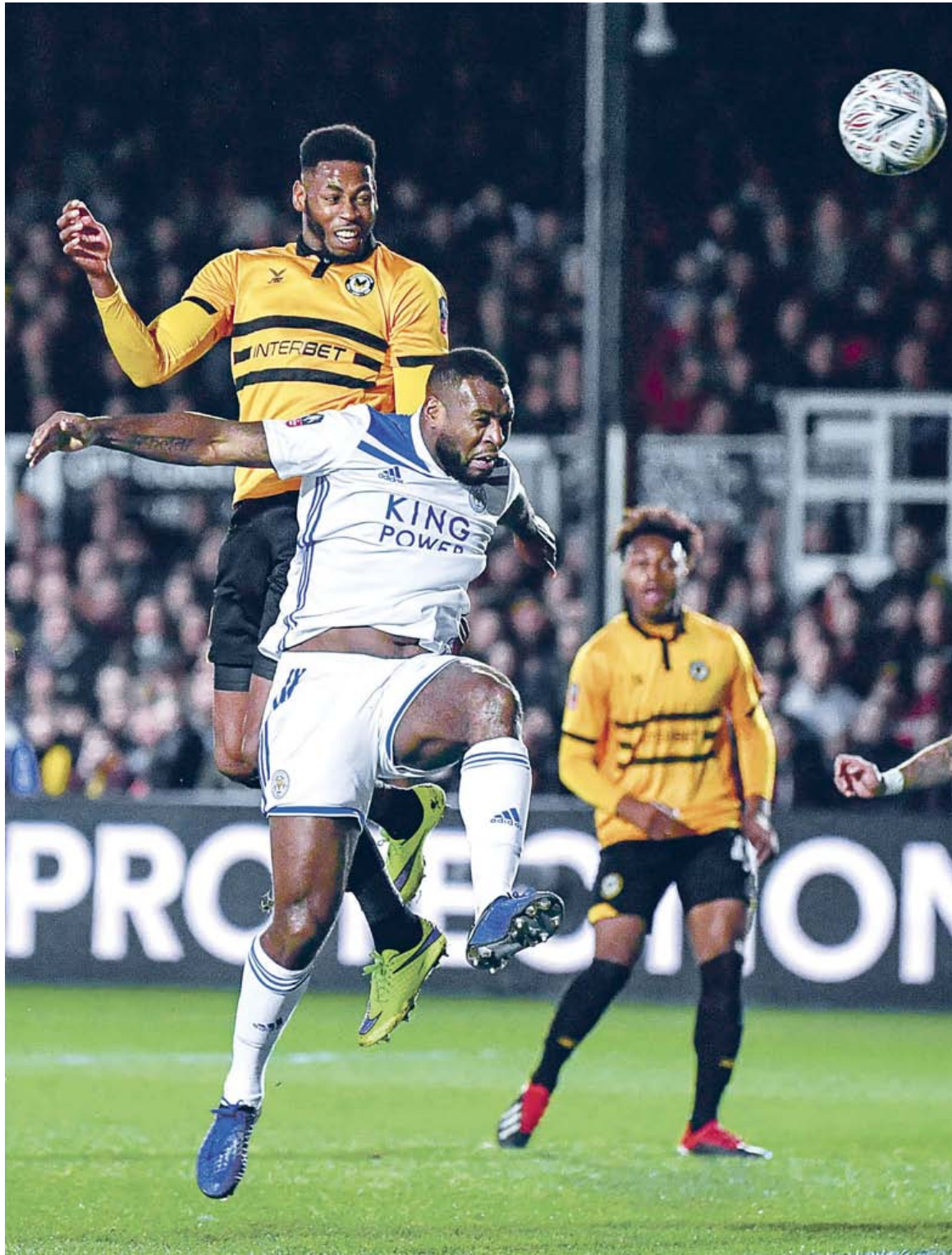
Rachid Ghezzal had threatened to spoil the party when he equalised with eight minutes remaining – the same point Harry Kane scored here last season to earn Tottenham Hotspur a 1-1 draw in the fourth round – but Newport were determined that history would not repeat itself on this occasion.

Marc Albrighton gave the League Two club a helping hand in more ways than one. The Leicester winger raised his arm, presumably to protect himself, when Vashon Neufville crossed from the left and the referee, Chris Kavanagh, immediately pointed to the spot. Amond, Newport's leading scorer, was the calmest man in the stadium as he coolly dispatched his penalty past Danny Ward.

What a chastening experience for Leicester and in particular Puel, who seems to be forever taking one step forward and two back. His decision to field an understrength team in the Carabao Cup against Manchester City last month went down badly and the Frenchman left himself open to further criticism by making seven changes here. Jamie Vardy was nowhere to be seen and seasoned watchers will not be surprised to learn that Leicester looked toothless up front without him.

At the same time, Puel was entitled to believe there was more than enough talent on the pitch to overcome a side currently sitting 13th in League Two. "I think we had a good team, with eight who had won the title with Leicester and a lot of experienced players and quality on the pitch," Leicester's manager said. "I don't want to look for excuses about this."

"We had a lot of respect for this [Newport] team. We knew it was a difficult game with difficult conditions – we knew this context. And it was important to have experienced players to manage this game and to find a solution. We tried, but it was not



enough. I don't know if we deserved it or not. They made a fantastic upset, it will be a fantastic memory for them."

Flynn, not surprisingly, was beaming. "It hasn't really sunk in yet. I feel extremely proud, it's huge for me, the football club, the community, all the fans and the players. We've beaten a very good Premier League team. We couldn't beat Stevenage who had 10 men on New Year's Day."

This was classic third-round territory in so many ways. Rodney Parade was packed to the rafters, there were rugby markings on a pitch that looked a little bare in places, and the atmosphere crackled under the lights as the home supporters greeted every header, block and tackle with huge cheers. Throw a weakened Leicester team into the mix and an early

Newport goal, and all the ingredients were there for an upset.

Matt's opener was a terrific goal. Robbie Willmott was the architect with a lovely piece of wing play as he skipped past Christian Fuchs before delivering a deep cross that Matt met with a towering header. Shinji Okazaki squandered a golden chance to level when he headed wide from inside the six-yard box and Albrighton saw a goal-bound shot deflected over the bar after some brilliant last-ditch defending, but Leicester generally looked ragged and flat in the opening 45 minutes.

The pattern of the game changed in the second half as Puel introduced James Maddison and Leicester pinned Newport back. Albrighton clipped the top of the crossbar, Kelechi Iheanacho, who was hugely disappointing, saw

his header saved and later thrashed a volley wide. Newport's brave resistance was finally broken when Ghezzal thumped a wonderful 20-yard shot into the top corner.

The real drama was still to come, however, as Amond stroked home from the spot to send Newport into the fourth round. "I want Liverpool home or away," Flynn added.

Newport County

4-2-3-1

Day; Forbes (Pipe 67), Franks, Demetriou, Neufville; Dolan (O'Brien 86), Bennett; Willmott, Amond, Semenyio; Matt (Bakinson 77)
Subs not used: Townsend, Marsh-Brown, Sheehan, Foulston

Leicester City

4-2-3-1

Ward; Simpson (Gray 60), Morgan, Evans, Fuchs; Choudhury, James (King 72); Ghezzal, Okazaki (Maddison 46), Albrighton; Iheanacho
Subs not used: Jakupovic, Soyuncu, Pereira, Mendy

Referee Chris Kavanagh Attendance 6,705

Roundup Wilks chips in as Doncaster down Preston

Two goals in the final 20 minutes saw **Doncaster** cause an upset with a 3-1 win at **Preston**. The League One side went ahead through John Marquis's fifth-minute header during an open first half.

Andrew Hughes brought the Championship side level with a header of his own at the start of the second half. But Tom Anderson scrambled the ball home with 18 minutes to go to put the visitors in control and Rovers sealed their place in the fourth round for the first time in nine seasons when Mallik Wilks slotted home in the 87th minute.

The Doncaster manager, Grant McCann, could not contain his delight afterwards. "I thought we were outstanding. I'm particularly proud of the response after we conceded," he said. "It is a great feeling to be in the fourth round, it has been a long time since the club got so far. We are all excited to see who we will get drawn against."

Preston's manager, Alex Neil, was less ebullient. "I think during my time here, off the top of my head, there have been five or six games where I felt it has been unacceptable in terms of performance, and that was one of them."

Jake Bidwell's second-half header handed **QPR** a 2-1 victory over Championship leaders **Leeds United** and an even rarer place in the fourth round.

Bidwell headed home Luke Freeman's corner with 15 minutes remaining to give the west London club their first third-round win without the need of a replay in 23 years. Leeds had hit back through Aapo Halme two minutes after Aramide Oteh's 23rd-minute penalty put Rangers ahead at Loftus Road.

"Cups are exciting and it gives our squad an opportunity, so long may it continue," said the QPR manager, Steve McClaren.

Shane Ferguson's brilliant late double earned **Millwall** a place in the fourth round as they came from behind to record a 2-1 win over **Hull City** at the Den. A much-changed Hull side took the lead shortly after half-time when Jon Toral combined well with Nouha Dicko to score.

But Ferguson levelled the scores with nine minutes to go when he took a short corner, got the ball back and curled a sumptuous finish into the top corner. His second, three minutes later, was even better: a free-kick floated past George Long and into the net. **PA**



▲ Doncaster's Mallik Wilks (right) celebrates scoring against Preston

Sport

Football Emirates FA Cup third round

Shaq shocks blunt Blades

Shaquille Coulthirst tucks away the penalty that turned out to be enough for a famous win
MATT WEST/
BPI/REX/
SHUTTERSTOCK



Currie has family reunion to remember with Barnet victory

Sheffield United 0

Barnet 1

Coulthirst 21 pen

Possession
Sheff Utd 69% Barnet 31%

Total attempts
10 7

Offsides
2 2

Ben Fisher
Bramall Lane



Minutes after the final whistle had been blown Barnet's players slid on their knees in unison towards 966 delirious visiting supporters, looking down on their heroes from the top tier of the Bramall Lane end. It was a real wrench for Darren Currie, the caretaker manager taking charge of Barnet for the third time and the nephew of the Sheffield United director, Tony, to leave the pitch, and the scenes of jubilation behind. When he and his players, after wildly swinging amber scarves thrown from above in celebration, eventually did, hundreds of home supporters yet to funnel out of the stadium joined Barnet fans in applauding an assured performance by the non-league side.

Inside the dressing room, the party had started. Barnet players chucked a bucket of water over their manager, who arrived for his press conference with his shirt saturated. "This is all new, I was only coaching last week,"



▲ Darren Currie celebrates Barnet's win in front of the club's travelling supporters
TGS PHOTO/REX/
SHUTTERSTOCK

Currie muttered as he sat down, before later tracking down his uncle. It was Shaquille Coulthirst, the former Tottenham youngster, who slammed home the only goal of the game from the penalty spot as Barnet, 15th in the fifth tier, pulled off an upset to pro-

gress to the fourth round of the FA Cup for the first time since 2008.

So composed and courageous was Barnet's display it was difficult to know which team are in the National League and which are third in the Championship. United, booed off at the final whistle, were unconvincing at best. Even the second-half introduction of the captain Billy Sharp, one of 10 players rested here by the manager, Chris Wilder, could not force a replay.

This was always going to be a family affair. Currie, put in caretaker charge of Barnet following the sudden departure of John Still, grew up in Hendon, a few miles from Underhill, Barnet's previous home. Standing in the away dugout at Bramall Lane, the rookie manager found himself pacing the technical area in front of the packed Tony Currie Stand, which was renamed after his uncle - voted the Blades' best ever player five years ago - in the summer. If things had worked out differently during a trial as a teenager, Currie could have counted United among his former clubs but, instead, he played for Barnet and Wycombe, among others.

Currie told his players to play with no fear and they certainly followed his orders, flying out of the blocks with Coulthirst having a strike ruled out for offside inside six minutes after a slick



▲ Richard Stearman upends Shaquille Coulthirst for the decisive penalty

interchange. Jack Taylor, playing as a No 10, was influential for Barnet and it was his cute one-two with Coulthirst that provided another chance for the visitors, only for Richard Stearman to intervene with a superb sliding challenge.

Stearman's timing was not so clever second time around, with Ephron Mason-Clark hauled down by the defender in the box following brilliant hold-up play by Coulthirst after collecting a ball in the left channel. Coulthirst immediately ran to scoop up the ball and hammered his penalty beyond Simon Moore, the United goal-keeper, who could get only a weak left hand to his effort.

Barnet had established a deserved lead but did not relent, with Taylor and Craig Robson both trying their luck from distance. As the visiting supporters began singing about a trip to Wembley and beckoning Currie to wave back at them, the hosts struggled to carve out any clear-cut chances, with Paul Coutts' ambitious volley about as good as it got.

Barnet, effective on the counter-attack, would have doubled their lead through the lively Coulthirst after more good work by Mason-Clark on the byline but for a last-ditch intervention from Marvin Johnson. "I think we have been quite fortunate that it was not two or three," a fuming Wilder said. "They got everything right and we got everything wrong."

At full time the home supporters acknowledged Barnet's efforts. It was a classy touch and Mason-Clark and Coulthirst proved such a nuisance that, when they were withdrawn in the second half, swaths of home fans applauded them as they left the field. By the time Kieron Freeman dragged wide after the interval, Wilder had seen enough and summoned Mark Duffy, then Sharp, who last week scored his 220th league goal. Then came Chris Basham. But Barnet held on through a nerve-jangling final couple of minutes, with Mark Cousins tipping Leon Clarke's header on to the bar.

As the final whistle sounded, an inevitable chorus of "We're going to Wembley" filled the stadium but equally predictable was the clamour for Currie to be given the job on a full-time basis, after hatching a historic upset in only his third match in management; Still, his predecessor, walked away from the game last month after managing more than 2,000. For Currie, whose team face Dorchester on Saturday, few are likely to be as memorable as this.

Lang's late show piles further pain on Fulham

Fulham 1

Odoi 52

Oldham 2

Surridge 76pen, Lang 88

Paul Doyle

Craven Cottage

Pete Wild described it as a fairytale and that was no hyperbole from an Oldham fan who bought a ticket to watch this match with friends but ended up managing the League Two team to victory over Premier League hosts.

"My mates have said they'll stand for the ticket now but we'll see," said the 33-year-old with the broadest of smiles. A wonderful story unfolded with a perfect sense of drama, as the underdogs fought back from a goal down thanks to strikes by Sam Surridge and Callum Lang either side of a penalty save by Daniel Iversen.

Ten days ago this seemed an outlandish scenario. Wild had made arrangements to travel by train to Craven Cottage with five fellow fans but then, following Frankie Bunn's dismissal as manager after a 6-0 defeat at Carlisle United on Boxing Day, he was asked to become the club's manager on a caretaker basis. He stepped up from the role of academy manager, to which he had been assigned in June, also on an interim basis.

It would have been a difficult time for anyone to get the job, let alone someone who was running Oldham under-16s last season and, by his own admission, had "only been an academy manager for two minutes". The club has endured the most traumatic year in its recent history featuring discord, financial problems and relegation to League Two, a level to which they had not sunk since 1971. In his first two matches in charge Wild led Oldham to wins over Port Vale and Notts County but that could hardly be cited as evidence that victory over Premier League opponents was imminent.

To Wild's immense credit, and Fulham's ignominy, there was no chasm on the pitch between the team who spent over £100m on players after last summer's promotion to the Premier League and the one that has fended off winding-up orders and, in October, faced threats of a strike by players over unpaid wages.

From the start here it was clear that Wild has instilled method and confidence. The 4,000 visiting fans had good cause to sing throughout the match. Fulham's frustrations were encapsulated by the moment in the 37th minute when Neeskens Kebano

► Claudio Ranieri felt let down by fringe players given a chance to start

ANDREW COULDRIDGE/ACTION IMAGES/REUTERS

Oldham rejoice in keeper of the faith

Daniel Iversen saved Aleksandar Mitrovic's penalty six minutes from time to set up the visitors' dream finale

CLIVE ROSE/GETTY IMAGES



▲ Sam Surridge (right) celebrates scoring Oldham's opening goal

EDDIE KEOGH/REUTERS

was booked for diving in the box.

Oldham's defence, marshalled by the 37-year-old Peter Clarke, had kept their hosts at bay with such poise that the only hints of a goal up until then were a couple of headers by Floyd Ayité. Neither required Iversen to make a save. "The first half was boring from us," said Claudio Ranieri later. It was music to Oldham's ears.

Fulham might have thought they had restored order when Denis Odoi drove the ball into the net in the 52nd

minute after an inadvertent back-header from Ayité. But Oldham have grown accustomed to adversity and were not about to give up. Ranieri had made six changes to the lineup that started Fulham's last Premier League match but, in recognition of Oldham's defiance, he introduced more of his top players as the game advanced. The substitutions backfired.

Ryan Sessegnon's first involvement after his arrival in the 73rd minute resulted in him conceding a penalty after the prodigy tangled with the veteran Clarke. One of Wild's substitutes, Surridge, converted from the spot. After the game he returned



to Bournemouth, from whom he had been on loan since the start of the season.

Ranieri cast on another high-calibre substitute, Aleksandar Mitrovic, just in time to take a penalty awarded to Fulham following a dubious tumble from Tom Cairney. Any debate about that was made redundant by Iversen's save but Oldham exacted retribution anyway and in glorious style.

In the 89th minute Gevaro Nepomuceno sent a cross to the back post and Callum Lang scored with a superb header. For Lang, too, this was a surreal turn of events given that on Friday he thought he would miss this match and return to Wigan, from whom he is on loan. "I can't quite believe it," he said. "Last week it was touch and go whether I would be going back to Wigan and now I'm enjoying one of the best feelings of my career, if not one of the greatest moments of my life."

Ranieri was left to fret about what this performance means for his team's chances of Premier League survival. He said he was let down by players who have been asking for game time since his arrival in November. "You have an opportunity to prove me wrong and you miss it," said the Italian. "If you lose and the players give you 100% I can accept it but we didn't play with passion and I don't understand that."

As for Wild, he says he has no idea what this win means for his career. But as an Oldham fan he knows who he wants his team to get in the fourth round. "Manchester United away, because they ruined my childhood," he said, referring to United's last-gasp win in the 1994 FA Cup semi-final - Oldham's last major mark in the competition - until now.

Sheffield United 3-4-1-2 Moore; Cranie, Bryan (Basham, 74), Stearman; Freeman, Coutts, Lundstram (Sharp, 65), Johnson; Dowell; Washington (Duffy, 58), Clarke Subs not used Henderson, Stevens, Egan, McGoldrick	Barnet 4-2-3-1 Cousins; Alexander, Sweeney, Reynolds, Johnson; Robson, Adams; Mason-Clark (Fonguck, 58), Taylor, Elito (Tutonda, 80); Coulthirst (Harrison, 80) Subs not used Matrevics, Akinola, Walker, Bettamer
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Referee Tony Harrington Attendance 9,906

Fulham 4-2-3-1 Bettinelli; Odoi, Chambers, Ream, Le Marchand; Seri, Cissé; Ayité, Cairney (Mitrovic 84), Kabano (R Sessegnon 73); Vietto Subs not used Fabri, Schürle, Christie, S Sessegnon, Kamara	Oldham 4-5-1 Iversen; Hamer, Edmundson, Clarke, Nepomuceno; Lang, Missilou, Lyden, Maoche, Branger; O'Grady (Surridge 60) Subs not used De La Paz, Taylor, Baxter, Graham, Hunt, Sylla
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Referee Anthony Taylor Attendance 16,134

More to come

Klopp backs Keita to make impression in title race

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Sting in tail

Wasps end run of defeats by beating Northampton

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Sports newspaper of the year

The Guardian
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Fulham 1 Oldham 2



Return of the giantkillers

FA Cup third round serves up shocks as Barnet, Oldham and Newport strike

▲ Barnet will be the lowest-ranked team in tonight's fourth-round draw, joined by Newport County and Oldham Athletic who knocked out Premier League teams

LEE SMITH/ACTION IMAGES
VIA REUTERS

Ben Fisher

Darren Currie, the Barnet caretaker manager, praised the fearlessness of his side after they provided the biggest shock of the day in the FA Cup to reach the fourth round by beating Sheffield United at Bramall Lane.

The National League side will be the lowest-ranked team in tonight's draw

after a famous 1-0 victory thanks to a first-half penalty by Shaquille Coulthirst and will be joined by Oldham Athletic and Newport County in the hat after both overcame Premier League opposition in the form of Fulham and Leicester respectively, with the Welsh club recording a victory over top-flight opposition for the first time since 1964.

But for Currie, the nephew of the former England midfielder, Tony, who is now a director at the Championship

club, it was a day to remember after he was handed the manager's job on a temporary basis only last month.

"I've been fortunate to have this tie and have it personal to me and now I hope the boys get something they feel is a suitable reward for their efforts," Currie said. "As soon as I went in the changing room the boys decided to cover me with a bucket of water. I'm so proud; they've been brilliant for me the way they performed. I was proud

Other results

Man City 7 Rotherham 0

Millwall 2 Hull 1

Preston 1 Doncaster 3

QPR 2 Leeds 1

Woking 0 Watford 2

of them in the two previous games but this takes it to a whole new level."

Oldham, who faced opponents who were 59 places ahead of them in the league pyramid, came from behind to defeat Fulham thanks to Callum Lang's late winner. "It means a lot to me and my family. We're all Oldham people," said the caretaker manager, Pete Wild. "We're from a small town overshadowed by big neighbours and I'm so proud to give something back."

Will it fall to a black woman to oust Trump? *Richard Wolffe, page 3*Our uncivil war was caused by deceit, not one oddball *Anne Perkins, page 4*Obituary *Joe Casely-Hayford, fashion designer, page 8*The Guardian **Monday 7 January 2019**Opinion
and ideas

Journal



Together we
can thwart big
tech's data grab.
Here's how

**John
Harris**



Our family got a Google Home Hub for Christmas. As comparative lifestyle Neanderthals, we have so far only used it as a glorified digital picture frame and music player, though this is clearly not what it was built for. Say "Hey, Google", tell it what you want, and a whole universe of entertainment, advice and help can be supplied – up to and including instant control of internet-connected doorbells, thermostats and more.

Contrary to their branding as "assistants", the primary purpose of these devices is not to devotedly help the people who use them. At the risk of stating the blindingly obvious, once we have paid for the hardware, we get the services they can deliver largely for free, in return for limitless access to the small details of our lives. Big tech is therefore able to carry on making advertising more and more precisely targeted, and vastly increase the mountains of data that power its development of artificial intelligence. Smartphones, tablets and computers have been helpful, but evidently not helpful enough. Build data-gathering machines into the domestic sphere, and you break open whole streams of personal information.

Facebook's influence is undoubtedly scary, partly because its senior management seems to have no clue about the responsibilities that should come with such power. But Google's penetration of our lives represents something else entirely. Its systems have soaked up the planet's topography and most of its languages. In the UK, it has a presence in the NHS. Thanks to the offshoots and acquisitions now grouped with Google under the banner of Alphabet Inc, it is centrally involved in biotech, the development of driverless transport – and, through its artificial intelligence subsidiary, DeepMind, the pursuit of even more incredible technologies that will, sooner or later, transform everything from work to education.

Google expertise is also driving the idea of surveillance-heavy "smart cities", which are beginning to capture the imagination of powerful interests across the world. As all its other activities grind on, it sustains its domination of the most mundane parts of our lives via Gmail, YouTube, the android smartphone system and its monopoly on online search. Its new assistants represent a step into unprecedentedly intimate spaces.

So, to use a very 20th-century phrase, what is to be done? The "techlash" of the last couple of years has left Google remarkably untroubled. But even so, you do not have

ILLUSTRATION:
THOMAS PULLIN




2

Together we can thwart big tech’s data grab. Here’s how

John Harris

← Continued from front

 to look too far for ideas. Perhaps both Alphabet and Google might be broken up, and their advertising operations would become standalone companies, with YouTube and Gmail similarly cut adrift. Maybe Google could be belatedly classified as a utility, and forced to allow open access to both its key algorithms and data sets, just as the US telecoms giant AT&T once gave up a range of its precious patents in return for its monopoly.

All of these things would be worthwhile. But as solutions they fall short in one fundamental sense: they deal with the manifestations of Google’s power rather than the root cause.

One glaring truth about the modern internet should be at the core of any meaningful conversation about it. From pluralistic, egalitarian beginnings, it has been transformed into a top-down system dominated by a few big players whose power is based on their control of data, with Google as the king. So perhaps something truly radical is required: a reconceptualisation of what the internet is, and what happens to the data that determines who controls it.

As the year unfolds, pay attention to the people who are talking about a new, decentralised internet – AKA Web 3.0 – and the possibility of data being returned to the control of the people who generate it.

In Boston, the worldwide web’s founder, Tim Berners-Lee, is working on a new way of using the internet. Called Solid, it is based around personal online data stores, or Pods, that contain the wealth of information people generate, and are their exclusive property. This means they can allow access to particular elements of their data from particular services as they see fit, and move their data from app to app instead of surrendering it (imagine, for example, being able to move between social networks, taking your lists of friends and followers with you). Berners-Lee and his people are also working on a new kind of digital assistant they have named Charlie, the *raison d’être* of which is the careful use of personal information, to make individual lives easier and better, rather than the idea of using it to sell us things (“Charlie works for you; Charlie doesn’t work for Google or Amazon”).

Then there are the possibilities bound up with the blockchain, the system of verification that sits under so-called cryptocurrencies. For instance, the blockchain offers a means of independently verified personal identity, which respects privacy far better than Google and Facebook accounts do. Blockchain technology has also opened the way to new models whereby endless micropayments can be made in return for particular online services or content; and, if people voluntarily allow elements of their data to be used, rewards can flow the other way. Here perhaps lies the key to a system beyond the current, Google-led model, in which services appear to be free but the letting-go of personal data is the actual price.

Just before Christmas I spoke to one of the founders of a Cambridge-based startup called Fetch, which is developing what it calls decentralised artificial intelligence, something that seems to represent a much more egalitarian vision than the one embodied by Google-style “assistance”. In their system, using the internet to satisfy particular wants would not involve indiscriminately surrendering data but judiciously sending out digitised “autonomous economic agents” to get help as and when we needed it. If we wanted a ride to work, or minute-by-minute access to the cheapest electricity, this is how we would do it: via a system that repeatedly connected different permutations of buyers and sellers, rather than by privileging huge platforms that render the rest of us digital serfs.

These ideas and models have the disadvantage of sounding offputtingly complicated, which could foster a certain fatalism. Maybe Google’s offer to its users is too simple, and the company’s dimensions now far too big to allow any space for alternatives. I only know this: that tangled up in all this stuff are elemental questions about how we are going to live. And, even if it can play me my favourite song and tell me who’s at the door, Google does not have the answers.

The Guardian

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Privacy online

The hacking of German politicians exposes our common vulnerability

The discovery of a comprehensive hack of private documents from German politicians, artists and journalists might once have been the subject of considerable outrage. Indeed, Angela Merkel’s spokesman described the attack as “very very serious” and it was not just the newspaper that first published the story which got excited. But if this was an attack on democracy, it was a remarkably indirect one. That does not make it less dangerous, but the danger is subtle and pervasive.

Most of the really spectacular breaches of email security in the last eight years have taken place in a profoundly political context, where actors, good or bad, stood ready from the beginning to edit and analyse the raw data before it could be presented. The facts were always displayed within a frame. This did not just apply to politicians. It was true even of the “climategate” hack of emails between climate change researchers. When the affairs of Mossack Fonseca were exposed in the Panama Papers, this also had a clear agenda – to reveal and discourage tax evasion.

The German hack, however, looks not so much amateurish as anarchistic and pointless. The perpetrators remain unknown, although there is some evidence that they were part of a disorganised far-right culture that flourishes in the fetid crannies of the internet. The leak was not coordinated with any particular media campaign: the files were leaked in dribbles all through December on a Twitter account that nobody noticed. It had fewer than 20,000 followers and none of them, it seems, were reading it with attention or interest, even assuming that any were human and not bots. Only when a much more popular account was briefly hijacked and used to point at the hacked files did the story begin to leak out.

There is a naivety behind the belief that anything once secret becomes interesting when put on the

internet which no amount of experience can dispel. This naivety was also what enabled the ludicrous storm about Hillary Clinton’s email server: the assumption that there could be no legitimate reason for her to keep anything from the public was one of the factors that cost her the election.

It is this attitude, more than the hacks themselves, which makes these attacks dangerous to democracy. Although there is an ineradicable journalistic instinct, shared with the rest of the human race, to discover facts which other people would rather have kept hidden, this urge cannot go unchallenged. There is a legitimate sphere of privacy without which no organisation, and in fact no normal person, can function at all. This is true even of the professional exhibitionists who appear on reality television. Some of the most nourishing and grounding human experiences derive their quality from the fact that they are not shared.

Society worries quite rightly a great deal about the effect on privacy of state surveillance. We worry also, again rightly, about the effect of directed cyber-attacks against government, industries and politicians. But not all crime is major, and not all minor crime is harmless to its victims. The prankish, anarchistic mentality that seems to lie behind the German hacks may be closer to vandalism than to violent assault, but it must still be shocking and distressing to the victims. People who have been burgled will often report that the loss of privacy, and the sense of violation, is far more distressing than the loss of whatever physical things were stolen.

When politicians are considered fair game for this kind of attack, in which the daily undramatic details of their domestic lives are hung out for passersby to gawk at, the likeliest response is that fewer ordinary, decent people will wish to go into politics. Who can blame them? There are exceptions to this rule, who are able to withstand unnerving levels of pressure, like the American Democratic politician Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, who has laughed off the exhumation of a high school video of her dancing with friends. But democracy cannot depend on exceptional talents like hers. It needs ordinary people, too, who can be embarrassed and need sometimes to be protected from embarrassment.

Schism

Russia and Ukraine extend their struggle from earth to heaven

The Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, who reigns in Constantinople, has a magnificent title which corresponds to almost nothing on earth. Although he represents an unbroken tradition of almost 2,000 years of Christianity, Constantinople has been the Muslim city of Istanbul since 1453 and there are now fewer than 3,000 Orthodox Christians living there. Although his title is a claim to universal authority in the church, this has been has been obviously false since the papacy broke away and took with it western Christianity in the 11th century. Adding insult to injury, the patriarchs of Moscow regard themselves as his successors in “the Third Rome”. Yet still he matters. His decision last year to recognise the Ukrainian Orthodox church as a body separate from Moscow was celebrated in his cathedral in Istanbul yesterday. It came in the teeth of Russian opposition, and the political rift between Ukraine and Russia is now paralleled by a rift on the spiritual plane between Moscow and Constantinople and the declaration of a formal schism.

This may all seem like shadow play. But religions matter. It is obvious that they reflect political and even economic tensions. But they also help shape and form them. Religious allegiance has been a very

important part of how nations imagine themselves into being, and so of how they define who is and is not a member. This may not be obvious in England, where the near collapse of the state church has run in parallel with a more general crisis of legitimacy. But in countries such as Poland and Ireland, religion and nationalism were inseparable for most of the 20th century. Even some forms of secularism can serve the same function of crystallising the idea of a nation, as the doctrine of *laïcité* does in France, or the separation of church and state does in the US. In all these cases, there is an underlying idea that only those people who share in a particular doctrine can truly be part of the nation. And in Ukraine, where President Petro Poroshenko is campaigning for re-election using the slogan “army, language, faith”, the connection could hardly be more stark.

Should the schism succeed – and the church in Ukraine is thoroughly divided – the Moscow patriarchate will lose believers, authority and money. Today it represents about half of the world’s 300 million Orthodox believers; about a third of these are in Ukraine and might be lost to the new church. Although the Moscow patriarchate is widely regarded as a creature of the ruling oligarchy, the church in Ukraine is hardly free of political links and interference either. Control of its property will be a prize for both sides in the coming struggle. The sacred and the secular are inextricably entwined here, as they were in Henry VIII’s break with Rome. The conflict is partly about who blesses the guns of which army, but since that is a question that affects a soldier’s willingness to fight, and die, it matters to millions who have no interest in theology.



Will it fall to a black woman to oust Trump from office?

Richard Wolffe



Life, as Donald Trump has known it for the last two years, has just changed forever. Quagmired in a government shutdown of his own making, Trump's ability to manipulate his world is already severely constrained in this very new year. The more he struggles against his new surroundings, the more he sinks. Last week the president could only watch his beloved cable news channels as a bystander to the biggest tectonic shifts, as the Democrats took control of the House of Representatives and Senator Elizabeth Warren became the first candidate to officially emerge to run against him next year. And it won't be long before the House launches several investigations into corruption and incompetence, while the Mueller investigation continues to tighten nooses around all things Trumpian.

So it may be early, but it's not too soon to survey who is best placed to eject Trump from the White House, if indeed the 45th president makes it that far.

It's no coincidence that the first candidate to emerge against Trump - and enrage him - is a woman. Warren, the Massachusetts senator, represents at least two constituencies that have driven grassroots politics over the last decade. That is something Trump should recognise from his own campaign. Almost every US election since 2006 has been defined by a wave of voters seeking change, especially in the shape of a new candidate promising to reform a broken system.

Warren has long given voice and academic heft to the argument that the root cause of the broken system is a broken economy, skewed by Wall Street and the super-wealthy. But on that basis, as with most other policies, she will find herself in a crowded space with most of the other Democrats who will join her in this contest.

The second factor propelling Warren's candidacy is the dramatic political turn in November's midterms: the sharp shift among women voters. Democrats held a 19-point advantage among women, according to the exit polls, six points higher than two years earlier. In particular, Democrats moved from a nine-point loss among white women to parity with Republicans as married women shifted allegiance.

This is not a trend that Trump knows how to stop. In fact, his reaction to Warren's candidacy only underscores

Democratic Senator Kamala Harris in her home state, California, in November

PHOTOGRAPH: MARK RALSTON/AFP/GETTY

One candidate, Kamala Harris, embodies the driving force pushing the Democratic surge at the polls over the last two years

his limited grasp of the shifting political realities that kicked his party out of power. He told Fox News this week that "you'd have to ask her psychiatrist" to know if Warren believes she can win, and he continued to troll her on Twitter about her Native American family roots.

Outside Trump's wall of delusion and distractions, a host of strong women candidates is poised to join Warren. Kirsten Gillibrand of New York and Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota have often found themselves entirely misjudged by the men around them. Gillibrand was considered vulnerable in her first Senate election in 2010, but she trounced all comers in all of her contests. Klobuchar proved more than a match for the clumsy bullying of Brett Kavanaugh last year.

But one likely candidate particularly intrigues. Kamala Harris embodies the driving force pushing Democrats to record turnouts in non-presidential contests over the last two years: women of colour. The California senator has served just two years in Congress - like the last freshman senator to win the Democratic nomination, in 2008. But unlike Barack Obama, Harris has a very significant record of public service, serving as her state's attorney general for six years and as San Francisco's district attorney for seven years.

While all the Democratic candidates can appeal beyond their own demographics, personal perspectives can and do influence political character. There's no mystery about why Trump performs so well with older white men. And there should be no surprise that Harris - the daughter of Indian and Jamaican immigrants - has already won the overwhelming support and respect of influential women of colour who will help shape the Democratic primaries.

Harris, like the other candidates of colour, will face the same questions Obama did about appealing to the white working-class voters across the rust-belt states that Hillary Clinton narrowly lost to Trump. However, working-class challenges are most acutely experienced by minorities, and each of the former industrial states that tipped the 2016 election - Pennsylvania, Michigan, Wisconsin - have diverse electorates that shifted decisively against Trump last year.

The test for Harris, and the other Democrats, is whether she can effectively demonstrate that she is listening to those voters in order to overcome the culture wars that Trump will happily wage. Well before the general election, the candidates will need to navigate the primary and caucus voters, where Democrats tend to be more progressive and want more change, not less. There's no reason to think a candidate of colour cannot succeed there, where Obama did in 2008. The biggest difference this time is that the largest state of all has moved forward its primary to March, three months ahead of where it used to be. That state, California, is home to Kamala Harris.

The key primary test for all candidates will be who can best take the fight to Trump while still talking to voters beyond the reach of his tweets. In politics they say you should never wrestle with a pig, but the desire to stay clean did little for Trump's opponents in 2016. Voters expect their candidates to stand up for themselves while still talking about what matters in their lives. The test for the female (and male) candidates of 2020 is how to sling mud without getting stuck in it.

✱
Richard Wolffe
is a columnist for
the Guardian US

4

Opinion

Our uncivil war was caused by brazen deceit, not one oddball

Anne Perkins



Right on cue, as the witching hour of Brexit closes in, we are offered an opportunity to reflect on the forces that brought us to this state of national disarray and division. One of the most eye-catching things about James Graham's drama *Brexit: The Uncivil War* (screened on Channel 4 this evening), is that David Cameron proved too dull to make the final draft. The author of this whole catastrophe - the man who, in the interests of party management, put the referendum commitment into the manifesto and as prime minister made it happen - is thus reduced to the status of Gavrilo Princip, the assassin who unwittingly triggered the first world war.

What Graham has given us is a timely reminder of the opportunism, disingenuity and ruthlessness of those who jumped through the window of opportunity Cameron opened up. This is a portrait of the kind of people who, depending on your point of view, either think outside the box or set out deliberately to break the rules. Now we are living with the consequences.

Graham's genius is for poking about in the stomach of the beast. He is less interested in the men in the front row of the snapshots of history than in the people who don't make it into the picture - the party whips in *This House*, his play about the fall of the Labour government in 1979; a single MP and his constituency



Brexit: The Uncivil War PHOTOGRAPH: JOSS BARRATT/CHANNEL 4/PA

in *Labour of Love*; the editors behind the rise of Rupert Murdoch's *Sun in Ink*. The *Uncivil War* focuses on the men of the leave campaigns. In particular, Graham has homed in on Dominic Cummings, the cerebral obsessive on a lifetime mission to remake British politics.

Being played by Benedict Cumberbatch is the kind of recognition most campaign strategists would cheerfully surrender their contacts books for. Cummings, at least by public account, is chilled about it. His wife, the *Spectator* journalist Mary Wakefield, described in an article last month how he mumbled something about Cumberbatch dropping by for a meal. By this offhand attitude to celebrity, as well as a primetime portrayal of his unblinking focus as a particular kind of integrity, the Cummings "eccentric genius" branding is enhanced. He is just a smart guy with an uncomplicated determination to launch an insurgency. But the trouble with Cummings - and how this is conveyed will be the test of the drama for me - is that he couldn't give a toss about the relationship between ends and means. If his strategy for winning the referendum screws democratic politics for the foreseeable future, that's for others to worry about.

How well all that anti-establishment posturing worked. Of all the leave campaigners' tactics - all the breaches of funding laws and the dodgy use of data - perhaps the single most effective strategy was the self-presentation of the leave campaign as outsiders. This was a movement backed by multimillionaire, public school-educated financial traders and fronted by an Old Etonian. The Vote Leave war room was run by a historian with a first-class degree from Oxford (Cummings). Yet it masqueraded as the authentic voice of ordinary Britons ignored by a contemptuous elite. There's nothing wrong with a campaign composed of people who could, if they chose, access all the inner sanctums of power. But the disingenuity sticks in the throat.

The shameless misinformation that Cummings and his associates propagated hardly constitutes the first assault on the rules of conduct on which parliamentary democracy depends. It's just that their techniques were infinitely more brazen and dangerous.

Their audacity was best summed up in the single, Cummings-crafted message, "Take back control", implying that control - sovereignty - had been surrendered by an effete political class for no discernible reward. The notorious pledge of £350m a week to the NHS was the symbol of what restored sovereignty would deliver. It was a grossly misleading figure that crowned a campaign based on deceit. No one imagines that politicians never dissemble, but nor did we imagine that they painted deliberate untruths on campaign buses.

Looking back from our dismal vantage point, there is also a second sleight of hand that is rarely discussed but which Cummings plainly understands, and which may, in the long run, be even more damaging. Tim Shipman, whose *All Out War* is the definitive account of the referendum campaign, quotes a source on two kinds of political operators: "people who see the population as they would like them to be ... and people who see the population, ruthlessly, as they actually are". It was, said the source, the difference between wishful thinking and winning. Remember the Leave.EU "breaking point" poster showing a long line of refugees. The "uncivil war" was fought by leavers appealing to our worst instincts.

The way we talk about each other, and the way politicians represent their voters' views and ambitions, shapes how we think about ourselves. The great achievement of the postwar era was to create a national identity that at least aspired to be compassionate and meritocratic. Cummings and his wing men on the shabby side of the leave machine, impatient with the muddle and with representative democracy, gave voice to a national identity that is inward-looking, sometimes xenophobic, and in some quarters downright racist. By defining one cultural tribe, a second was created in opposition to it. And a country split in two is a country where the negotiation central to democracy will always struggle. Dull and boring Cameron facilitated this uncivil state of affairs; it was Cummings who delivered the war. Watch Graham's drama and weep.

Detained at US immigration, I felt frightened. And very lucky

Emma Brockes



I flew back to the US from London last week, and after waiting for two hours at immigration I stood by as the officer frowned at my documents. My children's US passports had been scanned without a problem. But looking at my green card, the officer asked: "Was this lost or stolen in the last year?" As it happens, it was. "Then I'm sorry," he said, glancing down at my three-year-olds. After a seven-hour flight and all that waiting in line, they were doing breaststroke across the JFK floor. "You'll have to step this way."

I have heard about the Congratulations, You Have Problems With Your Paperwork room at JFK, but had never actually seen it. It is a small, windowless room dominated by a raised bank of desks, behind which six or so officers sit, with several more patrolling the room. "No cellphones," snapped a woman as I knelt on the floor, restraining a child with one hand while trying to text the cab driver waiting for us outside with the other.

"OK, I'm just - ." It took her two seconds to cross the floor and rip the mobile phone from my hand, an act so surprising I laughed. "Wow," I said. "As if I couldn't hate this frigging country any more."

This was a childish thing to say. Most of the time I quite like the US. But more obviously, it was the purest expression I will probably ever make of the confidence that comes from being a white woman in possession of a British passport. "Now sit down," yelled the woman. The only empty seats were two rows at the back that had been pushed too close together to use. Alongside, a group of Hispanic men hovered uncertainly. Now we joined them. "Sit down!" yelled another officer. When nothing happened, he jutted his chin at the men, directing them to push apart the seats. "See what can be done when you work together?" he said sarcastically.

This facetiousness seemed to me the most shocking aspect of the situation: engineering people into a position of powerlessness, then mocking them for failing to show enterprise. There was no time to dwell on it, however, because just then my phone went off. "Whoever's phone this is, come turn it off!" bellowed the woman. As I approached her desk, she was momentarily distracted, and once again I started texting the driver. Her scream was so loud - "Are you TEXTING? And are you on MY SIDE OF THE DESK?" (I had inadvertently drifted) - I thought for a moment she would actually restrain me.

"Did you go the full Poppins?" a British friend asked me afterwards. But the fact is, I didn't. I was suddenly frightened. There was no bathroom access in this room, and both my children were wailing they needed a wee. The officers were completely implacable. A Middle Eastern woman holding a tiny baby sent me sympathetic glances, and after an hour my paperwork was returned - no explanation, no apology - and we left. I am still furious and indignant about the authoritarianism of that room, but more than that, of course, at the awareness that we got off very lightly.

*
Anne Perkins
is a writer and
broadcaster, and
former *Guardian*
correspondent



Screen time can open up a child's world

Nesrine Malik



About the age of 10, I fell down a reading rabbit hole. I would like to tell you that the reason was that I was bookish beyond my years, but the truth is that there was nothing else to do. It was Sudan in the 90s. There was only one TV channel, which offered military parades and propaganda. Most of the time there was no electricity available to watch it anyway. I had no friends or relatives my age nearby, and so to come home from school was to enter a black hole of inactivity. So I read anything I could get my hands on, escaping from what was in hindsight a sort of airless, inert unhappiness.

One day, as I was trying discreetly to read a book under the dinner table, my parents snapped. Unnerved

by my addiction and how unsociable it made me, they banned me from reading at home and ordered that I collect all the books I had hoarded from the library and return them. I remember fishing them out of different nooks and crannies and piling them up, with a growing terror of the impending boredom once they were gone.

I thought back to this traumatic moment during the latest outbreak of mass anxiety about children and "screen time". Alarm bells always ring for me when a child's leisure preoccupations are judged to be suspect. The latest bout of panic about screens has its source in a study by the journal *Eclinicalmedicine*, which collated data from 11,000 children aged 14 taking part in the Millennium Cohort Study research project. The recommendation from doctors was that parents should cut social media use for children, as evidence suggests that it interferes with sleep and is linked to depression, particularly in young girls. Intuitively, this makes sense. The anxiety about screens is probably triggered because we adults are forced to spend more time than we would wish to looking at them.

We're all trying to get off our screens, taking hiatuses from social media and deleting accounts. Cafes advise us: "There is no wifi! Talk to each other!" There is even a growing cottage industry of literature on the topic. Books such as the hugely popular *Ten Arguments for Deleting Your Social Media Accounts Right Now*, *How to Break Up With Your Phone*, and *You Are Not a Gadget* warn us about all the ways connectivity is damaging us. Reports began to emerge last year of how Silicon Valley technologists are banning screens from their own homes. The *New York Times* says a "dark consensus" is beginning to emerge. An ex-Facebook employee told the paper that he is "convinced the devil lives in our phones and is wreaking havoc on our children".

But in truth, there is no consensus, dark or otherwise. Even the University College London experts who led the

study on screen time are reluctant to issue guidelines on where to set the threshold. Setting daily limits, they say, is "not the right focus". Instead parents should be thinking: "Are you getting enough sleep, enough exercise, are you spending enough time with your family?"

All the hand-wringing also seems to miss another important dimension to the debate: limiting screen time assumes a degree of economic stability and social capital in the households that enforce the rules. For single parents who cannot afford childcare, for families isolated from friends or support networks, for children and adolescents caught in the middle of domestic dramas, and for women stifled by oppressive relationships or parents, screens are a boon. They are a window on to the outside world. A screen is not only a distraction: it is a rolling, cushioning conversation with the best friend of a teenage girl who has moved to a new country. Screens can liberate. They can, as books did for me, give blessed relief in a world where there is a poverty of leisure options.

My parents saw my reading habits as an extreme diversion from what they considered normal. By that, I assume they meant communal family interaction and, in its absence, literally staring into space. This was how they grew up, with little literature and no electricity, counting stars to fall asleep. It should be a good and welcome thing that I had, and today's children have, many other possibilities.

There is a whiff of elitist asceticism about the panic over screen time. Having acquired what was previously exclusive technology, now available to the masses, some people seem impelled to grandstand by forswearing it. But only those who are so fortunate that they can take or leave the utility of modern gadgets can afford to moralise. Yes, extreme screen fixation and social media addiction are troubling phenomena. But temper that with a thought for those for whom the devil isn't living in our phones, but banished by them.

6 Letters

Brexit, Labour and what Corbyn should do next

Jeremy Corbyn performed a vital task in repositioning Labour as a distinctly left-of-centre party. Though a thoroughly decent man, he has always struggled as leader of the opposition, lacking the necessary presence, self-confidence, articulacy and flexibility of mind, and vision. With his latest utterances (Corbyn defies Labour calls for a second referendum, 3 January) he has revealed the full extent of his inadequacies. Labour's equivocations on Brexit were always embarrassing, became severely frustrating and are now shaming.

As a consequence of Corbyn's stance on Brexit, Labour is likely to lose the next election. Many of my friends and I have tramped the streets during election campaigns, canvassing for the Labour cause. Not after this. Corbyn is the victim of dogma, bad advice and the clammy influence of ageing Bennites and trade unionists, and he must move aside. The country needs an opposition leader who can articulate how Labour in power would address the inequalities and unfairness in society and, at the same time, make the remain case with conviction and passion. Now the full implications of leave have become clear, it is surely Labour's responsibility to give the people, through an election or a second referendum, the opportunity to vote for Britain to remain alongside our neighbours in Europe.

David Curtis
Solihull, West Midlands

● It says a great deal about the Guardian's reporting of Corbyn's attitude to Brexit that Michael Gruneberg (Letters, 4 January) thinks he "only pays lip service to abiding by his membership's views". In fact, Corbyn is expressing exactly what the Labour conference decided in September, namely to oppose any deal that does not meet the party's six conditions and to call for a general election. If that is unsuccessful then all options are on the table.

And will those calling for another referendum please note that, thanks to May's delaying tactics, there is now no time for one before the UK is due to leave the EU, and no majority in parliament to postpone Brexit in order to hold one.

Dorothy Macedo
Ferring, West Sussex

● For two years the Labour party has used every means possible to obstruct or frustrate the implementation of the 2016 referendum. It has contrived deliberate delays, and then protested about the slowness of progress. It has set impossible targets and then complained that they will not be met. It has undermined our own

government by holding parallel talks with EU negotiators. And all this while being led (if that is an appropriate word) by someone with a historic record of unmitigated hostility to the European project. Even those who voted to remain are coming to see Labour as an unprincipled party interested only in benefitting from instability as a convenient gateway to power. This has alienated many traditional Labour voters.

Parliament will soon reconvene. Labour has a short window of opportunity to prove that it can behave like a responsible party whose priority is the national interest. If it does not, it will suffer a terrible day of reckoning at the next general election.

Dr Clive Ashwin
Aylsham, Norfolk

● Nick Wright of the Communist party (Letters, 4 January) makes the same mistakes as Corbyn regarding Brexit. He repeats the well-worn phrases of "unconstrained by EU treaties" but fails to address the problem that if we wish to continue to trade with the EU, as

Corbyn is the victim of dogma, bad advice and the clammy influence of ageing Bennites, and he must move aside

David Curtis

most businesses would, and need to, we will still have to abide by EU regulations. It is ironic, too, that "a worker-led industrial strategy; aid industry, invest in training, youth and jobs, social welfare, housing, education and health services; and take the transport, energy and postal service profiteers back into public ownership" could all be done without leaving the EU.

Governments of both colours have let down the people of the UK, leading to Brexit. For example, under Labour, though NHS funding was boosted, Blair failed to renationalise the railways, deregulated the postal service and the "integrated transport policy" that was promised never happened. Housing and education have suffered more under the coalition and Tories. This was not the fault of the EU. We need a statesmanlike leader who can not only see that leaving the EU will disadvantage Britain, but will act to reinvigorate Britain's capabilities. Much needs to change to redress the balance of unrestrained capitalism that has

seen a huge increase in disparity in earnings. But leaving means we will lose our voice within the EU to call on such changes. We need to remain in the EU, strengthen its power, and implement reforms, as the world order around us is changing. To leave now would be folly.

John Ellis
Tavistock, Devon

● It comes as no surprise to hear that the Communist party supports Brexit. This was the same fundamentalist views we heard in the 1970s from some in the trade union and Labour movement. The notion that European capitalists are a unique breed argues that the capitalists in the WTO wear a different hat. The problem is that under WTO rules there are no protective rights for workers – a sigh of relief for the US and Chinese multinational corporations. But what has that reality to do with pure and unadulterated belief? Sadly there are some in my own Labour party who would rather risk workers' rights than take the tough course of negotiating with the economic powers in the EU. If they succeed, history will never forgive them.

Councillor Guthrie Mckie
London

● My experience of working in both the UK and mainland Europe for many years and of running a small hi-tech consultancy for 25 of them convinces me that the benefits of collective strength, democratic process and community of purpose far outweigh those which might be credible in a small, declining island economy. The occasional bruises from EC bureaucracy and mild xenophobia heal. Competing with businesses from north America was, with a couple of honourable exceptions, a rush-to-the-bottom misery. I would rather brush up my French and argue for reform from within the EC than pretend any belief in becoming an isolated direct competitor of the US and China. It would surprise me if my friends and former competitors thought any different.

John Ashford
Maidenhead, Berkshire

● Your "2019: the events to watch out for in world politics, sport and arts" (1 January) claimed "a new president of the European commission is appointed (31 October)". In fact, as laid down in the Lisbon treaty, the European parliament (EP) elects the president on the basis of a proposal from the European council taking into account the results of the EP elections. This failure to recognise the democratisation of the EU embodied in Lisbon both colluded with the leavers in their "take back control" campaign and neglects the real prospect of a constitutional crisis in the wake of May's EP elections as the rise of populists, nationalists and xenophobes leaves no absolute majority available for any candidate.

Glyn Ford (Labour MEP, 1984-2009)
Oldham

Light play

'A misty morning walk in Alexandra Park, Manchester, taken on Christmas Eve'

JAN BRADLEY/
GUARDIAN COMMUNITY

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Grayling's record of catastrophic failures

I share Owen Jones's view of Grayling's staggering incompetence (How on earth is Chris Grayling still a cabinet minister?, 3 January). Similarly I am sadly not surprised that he keeps a job in what has become a shambolic government. In any other government it would have been truly amazing that he was put in charge of transport, particularly given his spectacular failures as minister of justice.

Jones alludes to his record of "blunders" and "disaster" but I think his virtual destruction of a gold star probation service in 2013/14 needs to be spelt out. He oversaw the transforming rehabilitation agenda that meant selling off a huge section of the probation service to private contractors. Again no concern was shown that some of these had little knowledge of delivering probation services. The government has had to bail out these private firms.

Funny that Grayling has now chosen a "no ship" company to provide additional ferry services in the event of a no-deal Brexit. Some of us who worked in probation likened the transforming rehabilitation project to the Titanic. Many of us had already seen what privatisation had done to the prison service. Many reports from HM Inspectorate of Probation have been scathing about the situation in the now fragmented probation provision. Grayling was warned that it wouldn't work and that it could pose a risk to public safety but he took no notice. He was no more knowledgeable about criminal justice matters than he is a "specialist in rail matters".

Cabinet ministers can make catastrophic mistakes and still be given power to make more. This government's policies usually involve giving shed loads of money to private firms ill-equipped to deliver and end up costing more to the public purse and causing damage to the communities Tory MPs claim to serve.

Jan Clare
Nottingham

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Old age is nothing to be ashamed of

Portraying getting older in a positive light and raising expectations as to what people can achieve has to be welcomed (12 steps to a happy later life, G2, 3 January). However, giving examples of people who have done amazing things needs to be balanced by the possibility that for many people, who have led hectic lives, that to learn to relax and not have to achieve anything, if you don't want to, is equally valid.

For women who have had to balance child-rearing, careers and generally putting the needs of others before their own, one of the most important lessons is that it is OK to do what you want and not feel guilty. If you fancy sitting down and reading a book for a few hours, that's fine. It is also important to accept that the ageing process affects individuals in different ways and what one person can do others cannot and that does not reflect negatively on those who can do less.

Dr Hilary Hodge (aged 73)
Bassingbourn, Cambridgeshire

● I sat down to read G2 and nearly choked on my cuppa. The first step to a happy later life is apparently not to acknowledge that you are old. This is simply to reinforce ageism, like telling gay people they will be happier if they don't acknowledge they are gay. I am glad to be old, thanks to luck, the NHS and welfare state, my family and friends and my genes. Let's reclaim old age as something to be proud of and grateful for, not be ashamed of. We will all be old one day, if we are fortunate. I am old. Get over it!
Margaret Beetham
Manchester

Pending disaster of US Syria withdrawal

With respect, Simon Jenkins' support for Donald Trump's withdrawal of US troops from Syria is misguided (Opinion, 4 January). I was on a humanitarian mission to the region officially called the "Self-Administration Area of North-East Syria" when Trump's middle-of-the-night tweet announcement came. While it is an inelegant name, the region's acronym is apt: SANE Syria. The area is peaceful; the rest of the country is in chaos. SANE Syria encompasses a number of groups who, supported by the US and UK, gave 8,000 of their lives to the fight against not just Isis, but also dictatorship.

The Kurd-led autonomous zone is an island of democratic liberalism in a crescent of totalitarian and religious extremism that stretches from Turkey to Somalia. The American presence is all that has prevented the Turkish president,

Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, from destroying a project where each political office is co-chaired by a man and a woman. They could teach us a lesson in our era of #MeToo; instead Trump gives them a lesson in betrayal in exchange for 12 pieces of silver (or, in this case, \$3.5bn in arms sales to Turkey).

Syria's President Bashar al-Assad views the autonomous region as his enemy too. On the afternoon of Trump's announcement, I was in Derik, close to the Turkish border, to meet a Syriac Christian community. They have also spilled blood. One woman, Baka Binjamin, was in the same platoon as her son Yacoub. She insisted on fighting in the first line, ahead of her child, in what must be the ultimate example of her maternal instinct. Both are miraculously still alive, but they will not survive another onslaught.

If President Trump's tweet is followed by an American exodus, the sane part of Syria will be crushed between the anvil of Assad and Erdoğan's hammer. Without any casualties, it has protected human

rights. The right to life is common to all, not just to Americans.

Clive Stafford Smith
Bridport, Dorset

● When the Syrian civil war started in March 2011, most British journalists thought Assad would be deposed by Christmas. I had recently returned from a two-year teaching contract in Syria and thought this unlikely. That seven years later Jeremy Hunt has reached the same conclusion gives me no satisfaction, given that over 250,000 people have died in the interim. In his latest statement (Assad will stay in power 'for a while', Hunt acknowledges, 4 January) the minister fails to explain why keeping US forces in Syria would "make the streets of London safer".

I do not recall any Syrian terrorist attacks on London, other than those mounted by anti-Assad Isis forces. Some of these British jihadists returned to Syria to seek to overthrow the regime there; a goal they seem now to share with Hunt.
Paul Anthony Hewitson
Berlin, Germany

Corrections and clarifications

● In an article looking at higher education, we referred to Lincoln's Social Science Centre as an example of a cooperative education project. However, we mistakenly said it planned to "establish a cooperative university with full degree-awarding powers". A different project, by the Manchester-based Co-operative College, is under way to establish a cooperative university with such powers (Obsessing over Oxbridge is not the way to beat inequality, 3 January, page 3, Journal).

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Live in Hope, and die in Caergwrle

I was a magistrate who had to retire on turning 70, and it is right that I had to do so. A recruitment crisis may justify temporarily lifting this ban; but the principle that the bench should as nearly as possible reflect society is important. Defendants may have made unwise choices, but they should all feel that those judging them understand their circumstances in life. Having an increasingly elderly magistracy (Letters, 3 January), when relatively few defendants come from this age group, does not help.

Peter Braggins
Frittenden, Kent

● Saturday's travel section (5 January) recommends 40 of the hottest destinations for 2019. About 75% of these require access by air, thus helping to ensure that they will be even hotter in future.

Peter Leach
Nercwys, Flintshire

● Seaborne Freight, a shipping company with a £40m government contract for a ferry service but no ships (Report, 3 January). You couldn't make it up. But hang on, isn't it the hospital with no patients from Yes Minister? A case of life imitating art, perhaps.
Hilary Veale
Weymouth, Dorset

● I am a blue badge holder. I do not own a car - indeed, I do not drive - but it is invaluable to me when I go out in a car with my wife, other family members or friends. So whose car registration number should be on my blue badge to comply with Jonathan Myerson's "simple solution" (Letters, 5 January)?
Dr Quentin Burrell
Ballabeg, Isle of Man

● As my Flintshire-born mum used to say: live in Hope, die in Caergwrle (next village) (Letters, 5 January).
Rod Warrington
Chester

Established 1906

Country diary

Ellar Ghyll, Otley, West Yorkshire

Deep in the underworld of Ellar Ghyll, in a place that has probably not seen sunlight since September, the drift of hart's tongue fern glows in the gloom with a primeval energy.

It is a pallid and lifeless winter afternoon, the sort of day that never brightens, and down in the ghyll, a wooded gorge in the shadow of the Chevin, the atmosphere is particularly downcast. But the evergreen brightness of the ferns resists the dreariness, evoking all the things the season lacks: lushness, fecundity, abundance. The glossy green of their fronds appears almost faintly unnatural, like it might have been the product of some diabolical magic. Where other plants fail, the ferns thrive.

Hart's tongue ferns are named for their distinctive undivided fronds, which seem to be gesturing at the air. You get the sense that if these tongues could talk, it would be in a primordial language. They sprout in and around the crater left behind by some crumbled ruins that are well on the way to being re-digested by nature, creating a scene that is part post-industrial Yorkshire, part Cretaceous jungle.

The ferns appear to be leeching life from the remains, and indeed they might be. *Asplenium scolopendrium* prefers a neutral to alkaline substrate and around here I have usually only seen it lolling from cracks in walls, rooted in lime mortar, rather than growing from the ground. Have construction materials used in the old building created localised conditions for the ferns to thrive?

The ghyll is one of those places most people pass through on the main road without a second thought, unless they have use for the sprawling scrapyards or the recycling site. But it is more than just a place for unwanted human detritus. Hunt around below the eyeline of the world and you find treasures.

Next to the ferns, a curtain of water tumbles over an old industrial waterfall in a way that is positively picturesque. I am familiar enough with the spot to know that when May finally arrives, these surroundings will become a sun-dappled glade densely carpeted with the white flowers of wild garlic. These sunken days will, of course, pass.

Carey Davies



Twitter: @gdncountrydiary

ILLUSTRATION: CLIFFORD HARPER

8 Obituaries



Joe Casely-Hayford

Pioneering fashion designer with a talent for mixing traditional tailoring with looks from the street

Like all great tailors, Joe Casely-Hayford was an outsider who observed how men define their personal identities and pledge group allegiances; the personal is the political and there is nothing more personal than the four metres of cloth in the average male outfit. He liked to cite his great-grandfather Joseph Casely-Hayford's 1911 book, *Ethiopia Unbound*, because it was about "duality and double-consciousness". Casely-Hayford's grandfather "wore Kente cloth to study at Cambridge and Savile Row to visit family in Ghana".

Casely-Hayford, who has died aged 62 after suffering from cancer, applied

that inheritance of black insight – "you're aware of both yourself and how you're viewed by the majority at all times" – to everybody, through clothes, mediating between tradition and street cred, formal three-piece and sportswear.

His suits were worn by Bono and Gordon Brown; he was the first serious name to collaborate with Topshop, in 1993; and the first to make mini-ranges for middle Britain's redoubt, John Lewis. He adored the anarchic power of punk (its politics, not its binbags) and as creative director (2005-08) of the arch-Savile Row firm Gieves & Hawkes took it to the Paris catwalk. Mixing it: that was life and the future.

His father, Victor Casely-Hayford, a barrister from Ghana, had settled in the UK and he and his wife, Ransolina,

expected much from Joe and his siblings, Gus, Peter and Margaret. Joe was not particularly academic and did not feel he belonged, "so that made me interested in the cult of the individual. I wanted to create my own identity and that's what drew me into fashion." The rebellion was to cut his own gear from secondhand tat and wear Manolo Blahnik women's shoes.

Yet his higher education was as thorough as the family could have wished: the workshop of Doug Hayward, favourite of celebrities and working-class dandies; the Tailor and Cutter Academy; and then fashion design at St Martin's School of Art, followed by history of art at the ICA. He knew how to set a sleeve head well before he met a theory.

The London fashion business was still informal in the 1980s, with low rents, low volume and a let's-make-it-right-here-on-the-kitchen-table attitude. Casely-Hayford's first brand, KIT, was just what it said on the label – army surplus canvas tents bought mouldering from a Bankside warehouse, bleached, distressed and cut up into garments.

That they were found in the Clink, SE1, mattered, because the cacophony of London always fed Casely-Hayford's creativity. He knew the East End best, because West End fashion had historically outsourced hand-finishing east to Whitechapel, so when he took cheap workspace in 1984 to design for his new Joe Casely-Hayford label, it was in Brick

I wanted to create my own identity and that's what drew me into fashion

Casely-Hayford in his studio in Shoreditch, east London, in 1997. Below, with his son, Charlie, right, at London Fashion Week in 2017

RICHARD BAKER/
ALAMY; WWD/REX/
SHUTTERSTOCK



Lane, where inspiration walked past his door, "mixing English-gentleman pieces with their religious clothing" on the way to the mosque. Surplus supplies were dwindling, so he was among the earliest designers to look for quality piece goods still being millwoven in the UK, and from these he made his first collection.

The tailoring was old-school Savile Row, but the ideas were global, with sartorial jokes including shirts that buttoned back and front. Casely-Hayford stayed faithful to the East End, moving the studio to Shoreditch, and then tracking undeveloped zones up as far as Seven Sisters.

He had to expand, because everybody wanted his output or intervention. Before he even had a studio, he had styled for Island Records and the Clash came calling; U2 followed, as did Take That, Liam Gallagher, Lou Reed and Jarvis Cocker. He was on call 24/7 through the 80s and 90s for stage costumes and wedding suits, and also worked for magazines: "When I saw the first issue of i-D, I saw people who were outsiders and that gave me hope in a socio-political sense. Prior to that, black people did 'black things'."

He showed in Paris and Tokyo, sold in New York, and set up a 1995 Barbican Art Gallery exhibition on African textiles. Before that, he had not consciously brought Africa much into his work, but its fabrics had become as local to Kingsland Road, Hackney, as a Greggs bakery, so it joined the mix.

The label, which also produced womenswear, ran until 2005, when Casely-Hayford was recruited by Gieves & Hawkes to see if a heritage tailoring establishment could be modernised as couture houses had been. This meant questioning every pad and stitch and he transferred all that R&D over in 2009 into a new brand, its label, Casely-Hayford, standing for his work and that of his son and business partner, Charlie.

They survived in the relentless clothing industry (more collections, volume and hype) by careful withdrawal, sometimes designing on the way to Japan, where they cultivated factories sympathetic to their English style, defined by Casely-Hayford Sr as "country estates and housing estates". Besides selling in the usual grand international venues, father and son opened a small, kindly shop in Marylebone.

Casely-Hayford said that through his children (his daughter Alice works for British Vogue) he saw "you can be where you want to be now. Thirty years ago we were fighting for our self-expression ... it was very difficult to operate outside those parameters."

He was appointed OBE in 2007.

His wife, Maria Stevens, whom he met at St Martin's and married in 1980, survives him, as do their children, Charlie and Alice, and his siblings.

Veronica Horwell

Joseph Ephraim Casely-Hayford, tailor and designer, born 24 May 1956; died 3 January 2019

Zhores Medvedev

Soviet scientist who exposed the use of psychiatric hospitals to silence dissent

Zhores Medvedev, who has died aged 93, was an outstanding geneticist and microbiologist. In 1970, after using underground publications to denounce political repression and the manipulation of science in the Soviet Union, he was forcibly detained in a psychiatric hospital. Other leading critics of the system, the physicist Andrei Sakharov and the writer Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, protested strongly and Medvedev was released after 19 days.

Emboldened, he promptly co-authored, along with his twin brother, Roy, a dissident historian, *A Question of Madness*, an account of how such hospitals were being used to silence dozens of critics of the political system. The book was published in the US and Britain in 1971.

The Soviet authorities then switched to the technique of exile. Zhores Medvedev had repeatedly been invited to lecture abroad but no permission had been given for him to go until 1973, when he was allowed to accept a year-long research post at the National Institute for Medical Research in north London. Shortly after his arrival he was summoned to the Soviet embassy and told his citizenship had been withdrawn.

Medvedev continued working in the department of genetics at the institute until he retired in 1991 but also found time to write several books. In *Nuclear Disaster in the Urals*, published in the UK in 1979, he revealed a previously unknown

nuclear explosion in which several hundred people had died in 1957. The disaster was officially suppressed but confirmed after the Soviet system collapsed.

He wrote about the 1986 Chernobyl explosion, which he said was inevitable, given the poor state of Soviet design and engineering. He also wrote an important book on Soviet agriculture as well as biographies of two of the last Soviet leaders, Yuri Andropov and Mikhail Gorbachev, all of which were translated into English.

In spite of his criticism of Soviet repression, he opposed the cold war and helped to draft an appeal in 1980 by the civil society group European Nuclear Disarmament for Nato and the Warsaw Pact to disband. In his later years he argued against what he saw as the west's demonisation of Russia and Vladimir Putin.

The Medvedev twins were born in Tbilisi, the capital of Georgia, to Yulia (nee Reiman), a cellist, and Alexander Medvedev, a philosopher. Convinced internationalists, the couple named one twin after Jean Jaurès, the French socialist, and the other after MN Roy, a co-founder of the Communist party of India.

Their father was arrested in the 1930s and died in Siberia, as a result of which Roy became the first Soviet citizen to investigate Stalin's purges in depth; he produced an astonishingly detailed work, *Let History Judge*, which was smuggled out of the USSR and published abroad. Zhores's interest was in the natural sciences: he studied at the Timiryazev Agricultural Academy, where he became a junior researcher.

In 1970 Medvedev was arrested at his home in Obninsk, south-west of Moscow, and taken to a hospital 40 miles away, where he was diagnosed with 'incipient schizophrenia'. He was locked in a ward with two other political detainees

FOTOS INTERNATIONAL/
GETTY IMAGES

At the time, Soviet agricultural science was dominated by TD Lysenko, who had gained Stalin's support for what were cranky ideas about genetic engineering. Lysenko opposed classical theories of genetic inheritance and claimed that seeds of plants could be modified by environmental changes and their new qualities would then be transmitted to successor generations.

Anxious for rapid improvements in Soviet farming, Stalin allowed Lysenko to spend lavishly on refrigerating seeds over the winter and planting millions of acres with new strains. The experiments failed, but Lysenko exploited Stalin's unending suspicions of plots and sabotage to silence all academic rivals.

After the dictator's death in 1953, Stalin's successor, Nikita Khrushchev, started a political thaw but no real change came to the world of Soviet science until after Khrushchev's ousting from power in 1964. In 1961 Medvedev had already started writing a history of the manipulation of science, which he said had bankrupted Soviet development.

The study was published underground and circulated widely. In 1965 Lysenko's views were finally exposed as dangerously flawed and he was expelled from the Academy of Sciences. Four years later Medvedev's book *The Rise and Fall of TD Lysenko* was published in the US.

Although Lysenko's ideas had been discredited, the Soviet authorities did not like Medvedev's critique of censorship, repression, bureaucratic intimidation and the cowardice of many academics in the field of science. They had him sacked from his post of head of the department of molecular biology at the Institute of Medical Radiology in Obninsk, south-west of Moscow.

In May 1970 he was arrested at his home in Obninsk and taken to a hospital in Kaluga, 40 miles away, where he was diagnosed as having "incipient schizophrenia" and "paranoid delusions of reforming society". He was put in a locked ward with other patients including two political detainees. Medvedev's case was the first time so prominent and well-connected a Soviet intellectual had been pronounced insane. Protests inevitably followed.

In 1990 Gorbachev gave him citizenship back to Medvedev but he and his wife, Rita (nee Busina), a fellow scientist, whom he had married in 1951 and who continued to work with him at his NIMR laboratory until retirement, preferred to remain in their home in the London suburb of Mill Hill. They both had phenomenal energy and worked on their two allotments almost daily until their late 80s.

Medvedev is survived by Rita, their son, Dima, four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Another son, Sasha, predeceased him.

Jonathan Steele

Zhores Alexandrovich Medvedev, geneticist and microbiologist, born 14 November 1925; died 15 November 2018

Birthdays

Juliet Annan, publisher, 64; **Sir Richard Armstrong**, conductor and former music director, Scottish Opera, 76; **Andy Burnham**, mayor of Greater Manchester, 49; **Alan Butcher**, cricketer, 65; **Nicolas Cage**, actor, 55; **Sir Nick Clegg**, vice-president for global affairs and communications at Facebook, 52; **Hunter Davies**, writer, 83; **Philip Dukes**, viola player, 51; **Michele Elliott**, founder, Kidscape, 73; **Tony Elliott**, founder, Time Out, 72; **Lewis Hamilton**, racing driver, 34; **Sir Stuart Hampson**, businessman, 72; **Eden Hazard**, footballer, 28; **Tom Kiernan**, rugby player, 80; **Ian La Frenais**, screenwriter, 82; **Malcolm Macdonald**, former footballer and manager, 69; **Maureen MacGlashan**, indexer and former diplomat, 81; **Clint Mansell**, musician and composer, 56; **Michael Marriott**, furniture designer, 56; **Trevor Nelson**, broadcaster, 55; **Ross Norman**, squash player, 60; **Miranda Sawyer**, journalist, 52; **Lady (Angela) Smith of Basildon**, former Labour minister and shadow leader of the Lords, 60; **Helen Worth**, actor, 68.

Letter

Dame June Whitfield

For 30 years, from 1974 until its dissolution, June Whitfield (obituary, 31 December) served as president of the Comedy Club, an amateur theatre society founded in 1881, drawing its membership from across the London commuter belt. June was always ready to give of her time despite the many demands of her professional life.

She attended events, and donated garments and costume jewellery to the club's fundraising sales and wardrobe. When eventually the club fell victim to the pressures of the 21st century and was obliged to close down, June was kind enough to grace the "Grand Finale Party" with her unforgettable presence.

David Stazicker

Announcements

Deaths

SWINNERTON-DYER, Professor Sir Peter, Bt, KBE, FRS mathematician, former Master of St Catharine's College, Vice-Chancellor of Cambridge University and Chairman of the University Grants Committee, suddenly at home on Wednesday 26 December 2018. Family funeral and cremation to be followed in due course by a memorial service in Cambridge. All inquiries to Peasgood & Skeates Funeral Directors, 01223 833463.

For Announcements, Acknowledgments, Adoptions, Anniversaries, Birthdays, Births, Deaths, Engagements, Memorial Services and In Memoriam, phone 020 3353 2114 or email: announcements@theguardian.com including your name, address and telephone number between 10am and 11am Mon-Fri.



“**They did not like his critique of censorship, repression and the cowardice of many academics in the field of science**”

Ray Smith's *The Ramblers*, 2001, a painted steel sculpture at Heston Farm estate, Hounslow, west London

Other lives



Ray Smith

Artist with a precise, whimsical style that found expression in award-winning public sculpture

My friend Ray Smith, who has died aged 69 from dementia, was the complete artist: he expressed himself playfully in words, music and visual arts, using myriad techniques and media. He drew, painted, made prints and sculpture and produced award-winning public sculpture alongside schemes for schools and hospitals.

The son of Geoff Smith, who worked for a shipping company, and Pat (nee Pearce), Ray was educated at Southend high school for boys, Essex, and then studied English at Trinity Hall, Cambridge, graduating in 1971. He was intellectually gifted, though his three siblings remember him principally as a boy who made things - balsa wood gliders or a mirror box with infinite reflections, for instance.

Ray started his freelance career in London, teaching at the Cambridge School of English,

illustrating album covers (for the bands Henry Cow and Heaven 17, for example) and lecturing at Chelsea School of Art.

He also illustrated picture books written by his wife, Catriona (nee Hermon), whom he married in 1971. The Long Slide (1977), which won two awards, and The Long Dive (1978) are lovely early examples of Ray's precise, whimsical style. His Artist's Handbook (1987) is now in its fourth edition.

Ray was fine arts fellow at Southampton University (1978-81), lectured at Plymouth University, (1986-95), and had many solo exhibitions including at the ICA, Ikon (both 1980) and the John Hansard gallery (1982), and numerous portrait commissions.

With his public art Ray understood the challenges faced by artists who transform a familiar view by placing new work in it. For At Full Stretch (2002), which scaled London's Trellick Tower, he interviewed hundreds of tenants who allowed him to install red plastic sheets in front of their balconies. Viewed from a distance these sheets formed a large red figure climbing the facade. Years after the installation was taken down a few red patches remained visible: some tenants had kept the red sheets as wind-breaks. Ray appreciated that.

A songwriter and banjo player, Ray performed with his daughter, Emily, at bluegrass events.

He is survived by Catriona, their children, Emily, Henry and Camilla, three grandchildren, his mother and his siblings, Shirley, John and Peter.

Ghislaine Kenyon



Miranda Beavis

Probation officer and sculptor who provided vital support as wife of the Guardian's editor in the 1960s and 70s

My partner's mother, Miranda Beavis, who has died aged 83, was a probation officer and sculptor. During her first marriage, to the Guardian editor Alastair Hetherington, she was an important source of support - an intelligent, liberal-minded sounding board. "There were few others to whom I could talk candidly," he recalled. "Miranda was vital in maintaining a sensible perspective."

She was born in Manchester, the daughter of two academics at the university - Richard Oliver, professor of education, and Anna White, a lecturer in English. She attended Howell's school in Denbigh, north Wales, and then studied history and English at Newnham College, Cambridge.

While at university, Miranda secured a holiday job in the cuttings library of the Manchester Guardian. There she met Hetherington, the paper's foreign editor, who soon afterwards, in 1956, became editor. Plunged almost immediately into the Suez crisis, Hetherington caused much controversy by taking a strong editorial line against the Eden government's military action in Egypt. The novice editor would later relate how Miranda gave him much moral support during a "strenuous and anxious time".

As soon as Miranda graduated, they married. Dorothy Macmillan, the wife of Harold Macmillan, the new prime minister, spotted their wedding photograph in the Guardian and invited them to No 10. "It was a happy lunch," Hetherington later wrote. "Miranda, extremely good-looking and with a sharp mind, was a hit with Harold Macmillan." Partly as a result, Hetherington re-established amicable relations with Downing Street.

In the early years of their marriage, Miranda spent much of her time with their four children in Manchester, while the Guardian moved its base to London in the early 1960s. The Hetheringtons moved to the capital in 1964, and bought a house in Blackheath. Miranda would

play hostess to influential dinner guests, and they also held huge parties for Guardian staff, which spread out on to Blackheath itself, and involved football matches that lasted many hours.

Miranda got involved in several causes, including a charity for prisoners' wives, and completed a course in social work at Goldsmiths' College (now Goldsmiths, University of London). When Alastair retired from the Guardian in 1975, and moved to become controller of BBC Scotland, she chose to stay in London. They divorced in 1978.

Miranda went to work for the Probation Service. Having started with a probation officer's usual workload with convicted criminals, she later served as a court welfare officer, dealing with custody disputes and difficult criminal cases. Eventually, after breaks to care for her elderly parents, Miranda gave up probation work to concentrate on her passion for sculpture.

In 1982 Miranda married John Beavis, a fellow probation officer. They enjoyed gardening and the theatre together. He died in 2008. Miranda is survived by her children, Tom, Alex, Lucy and Mary, five granddaughters and five grandsons.

Michael Crick



Teddy Smith

Talented mechanic for whom opportunity came about through service in the second world war

The life of my father, Teddy Smith, who has died aged 92, was in many ways a model of how the British social and educational system wastes talent. Ingenious and creative, he was a marvellous mechanic. "This man can fix anything," his demob record said, "and he is invariably cheerful."

Born in Sunderland, the eldest boy of five children, he was largely brought up by his mother, Doris (nee Johnstone), his father, Edward, being a merchant seaman. Although Teddy passed the exams to go to grammar school, his parents could not afford for him not to work. Instead, he went to technical school and then, aged 16, to work in a laundry as a roundsman.

His life was rescued, in a way, by

being conscripted during the second world war in 1944. He was taught a trade (mechanic), introduced to a dentist, and saw a bit of the world. He was in Egypt and northern Italy with the Royal Tank Regiment, although luckily too late to see any fighting.

After the war ended, he became a heavy goods mechanic for Flowers Brewery (later Whitbread) and for the North Eastern Electricity Board. His wiry frame belied his physical strength, but he was a gentle man and, as many people have said to me, also a gentleman. On Friday nights he would tie plastic bags round his hands to sweat the week's oil and grease from his skin. He retired in 1990.

He was a voracious reader, but macular degeneration took away that pleasure, together with his watercolour painting. He hoped, all his life, that his obvious talent, decency and goodwill would give him a fair chance. Only in retirement did he realise how stacked against him the odds had been.

He met Phyllis Bevin in the playground aged nine, although it was almost 20 years before they married. Her death earlier this year left him bereft.

He is survived by me, and by his sister, Nancy, and brother, Alan.

Lesley Smith

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 ✉ other.lives@theguardian.com
 🐦 @guardianobits



Sylvia Weir

AI researcher who helped to set up a science and technology education college in post-apartheid South Africa
 My mother, Sylvia Weir, who has died aged 93, was a researcher in artificial intelligence and education, a physician and an activist. She felt strongly about equality of opportunity and throughout her life strove to further this ideal.

Sylvia was born in the town of Benoni, South Africa, to Lithuanian Jewish parents, Rachel (nee Smith) and Abraham Leiman, who ran a clothing shop, and she attended the local Benoni high school.

When she entered the medical school at the University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg in the mid-1940s, she was one of six women among several hundred men. While working toward her dual MB BCh degree, Sylvia joined protests about apartheid. This made it prudent for her to move after completing her studies in 1950.

She emigrated to Britain, where she met Donald Weir, a researcher in immunology. They married in 1956 and raised their three children in Scotland. In 1974 Sylvia became a researcher at Edinburgh University in one of the first artificial intelligence departments, and four years later Seymour Papert, the

pioneer of AI, recruited her to join the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

By now divorced, Sylvia settled in Cambridge, Massachusetts, to contribute to MIT projects introducing computers into children's education. She focused on working with children with autism and those with disabilities. She continued this work at the Technical Education Research Centers (TERC) research organisation, also in Cambridge.

After Nelson Mandela's release from prison in 1990, he and some of his colleagues visited the US. During their visit to Boston the South African politician Aaron Motsoaledi discussed a plan for a new college for teachers - the Mathematics, Science and Technology Education College (Mastec) - with Sylvia.

She agreed that it was important to set up a strong educational infrastructure in the emerging South Africa, but who were they bringing in to support the planning and implementation? Motsoaledi turned to her and said: "You." Sylvia moved to Pietersburg, now Polokwan, in Limpopo province. At the age of 76, she witnessed the graduation of Mastec's first class of new teachers.

She eventually retired to Brighton, in East Sussex. An enthusiastic reader, Sylvia also relished sudoku puzzles and playing the cello. She continued to be concerned about South Africa, and helped to establish a charity for HIV/Aids orphans, Friends of Mponengele Aids Orphans.

Sylvia is survived by her children, David, Phil and me, 11 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Michael Weir



Simon Pepper

Founding director of WWF Scotland and key player in the establishment of national parks and forests
 My friend Simon Pepper, who has died aged 70 of a heart attack, was founder director of WWF Scotland. He held the post from 1985 to 2005, playing a key role in establishing the Millennium Forest for Scotland and driving its expansion by securing £27m for more than 22,000 hectares.

At WWF Scotland Simon also led the formation of an alliance of environmental bodies called Scottish Environment Link. It played an instrumental part in the successful opposition campaign to a huge quarry on Harris in the Western Isles, eventually persuading the French company Lafarge to drop its plans.

He advised the then secretary of state for Scotland, Donald Dewar, during the lead-up to his 1997 announcement of the government's commitment to national parks in Scotland, which saw their establishment in 2002 and 2003.

Born in Worthing, West Sussex, to Richard Pepper, a GP, and Patricia (nee Mackenzie), Simon went to Radley college in Oxfordshire, then studied zoology at Aberdeen University. His first job, in 1971, was in Chad, with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN, working to reduce

agricultural damage caused by the red-billed quelea. Returning to the UK in 1973 he did a master's degree at University College London before becoming a country parks officer in Essex from 1974 until 1978.

He then moved up to Scotland, where he bought a 42-hectare farm near Aberfeldy in Perthshire, refurbishing the farmhouse and starting up Cultullich Holiday Courses, a company that offered holidaymakers week-long visits to learn about the cultural and natural heritage of the place. He ran that venture until 1985, when he joined WWF Scotland as its founding director. After 20 years at WWF he "retired" to be a consultant.

In the year he left WWF he was elected as rector of the University of St Andrews, holding the post for three years. He was appointed a member of the Heritage Lottery Fund Committee for Scotland in 2011, chaired the grants panel of the Scottish government's Climate Challenge Fund, and from 2017 became chair of the Deer Working Group, which is due to make recommendations on the sustainable management of wild deer in Scotland in 2019.

Appointed OBE in 2000, Simon also served on the boards of the Forestry Commission Scotland, Scottish Natural Heritage, the Deer Commission for Scotland, and a cabinet subcommittee on sustainable Scotland, among others.

He is survived by his wife, Morag (nee Mackenzie), a publisher, whom he married in 1973, and by five children, 11 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Hugh Raven

✱

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Eric Richards

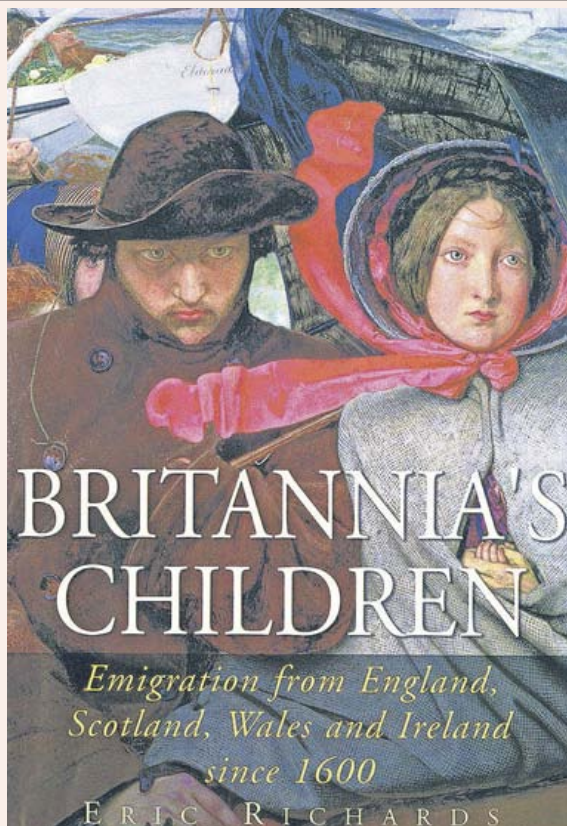
Historian of emigration fascinated by the effects of economic forces, for good or ill, on individual lives
 My friend of nearly 50 years, Eric Richards, who has died after suffering a heart attack aged 78, was the pre-eminent historian of the Highland clearances and of emigration, and emeritus professor of history at Flinders University, South Australia.

Eric was fascinated by the interplay between impersonal economic forces - "big history" - and their implications (tragic, painful or liberating) for individuals - "little history". His final public lecture, delivered in Amiens, France, a week before his death, explicitly addressed these themes, but they informed all his work; his research and scholarly publications (a dozen books, more than 60 articles) explored how these had played out in varied contexts.

The range of his work was daunting. His books explored the specifics - the history of the Sutherland estates in *The Leviathan of Wealth: The Sutherland Fortune in the Industrial Revolution* (1973), and Patrick Sellar and the Highland Clearances: Eviction, Homicide and the Price of Progress (1999) - and the bigger issues behind, including in the two-volume *A History of the Highland Clearances* (1982 and 1985), *Britannia's Children: Emigration from England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland since 1600* (2004) and *The Genesis of International Mass Emigration* (2018).

In all of them, analysis and description of the economic forces and the leading capitalist figures who gave effect to these forces were combined with a lifelong empathy for those compelled to leave homes and move from countryside to town or from country to country.

Rarely can there have been a historian whose own family and life gave better insight into the events he studied and wrote about. Eric was born in Wrexham, north Wales, to William Richards, the manager of a furniture store, and Jessie (nee Pritchard), who worked as a nanny. One grandfather was a small farmer forced by economic pressures to



The jacket for Eric Richards' Britannia's Children (2004), illustrated by Ford Madox Brown's The Last of England, painted in 1855, at a time of mass emigration

move to the town, the other a farm labourer; great-uncles emigrated to South Africa, Australia and Canada.

Eric himself, after attending Wellington grammar school in Shropshire and studying economic history at Nottingham University, emigrated to Australia in 1963 on an assisted passage as a "£10 Pom", before returning to teach at Stirling University in 1967 - an institution for which he retained great and reciprocated affection.

In 1971 he went back to Adelaide, to Flinders University, where he rose from lecturer to the chair in history in 1975. He was a frequent visiting professor to universities in Britain and the US, and to Scotland in particular, where most recently he was the Carnegie Trust centenary professor at the University of the Highlands and Islands. He and his second wife, Ngaire Naffine, Bonython law professor at Adelaide University, formed a wonderful academic team.

Eric is survived by Ngaire; by two daughters, Louise and Sally, from his first marriage, to Jane (nee Pollard), which ended in divorce; by two grandchildren, Stephanie and Bodie; and by his sister Marian. His eldest daughter, Cindy, died in 2012.

Callum McCarthy



His own family and life gave him an insight into the events he studied and wrote about

12

Puzzles

Saturday's solutions

Sudoku no 4261

9	1	5	2	8	6	4	3	7
7	8	6	4	3	1	2	9	5
3	4	2	9	5	7	6	1	8
4	2	7	3	9	8	1	5	6
1	3	9	5	6	4	8	7	2
6	5	8	1	7	2	9	4	3
2	6	1	7	4	5	3	8	9
5	9	4	8	2	3	7	6	1
8	7	3	6	1	9	5	2	4

Killer Sudoku 639

2	6	8	5	1	7	4	9	3
9	7	1	8	3	4	2	6	5
4	5	3	6	9	2	1	7	8
7	9	6	3	2	5	8	1	4
8	2	4	9	6	1	3	5	7
3	1	5	4	7	8	6	2	9
6	4	9	2	5	3	7	8	1
1	3	2	7	8	9	5	4	6
5	8	7	1	4	6	9	3	2

Killer Sudoku

Easy

The normal rules of Sudoku apply: fill each row, column and 3x3 box with all the numbers from 1 to 9. In addition, the digits in each inner shape (marked by dots) must add up to the number in the top corner of that box. No digit can be repeated within an inner shape.

23		5		16			13	9
	10	12		12				
9		23		14		16		4
				8			15	
22			11	11	15	7		
10	9	6					17	
			10		6	8	17	
7	23			16				12
					9			

Medium

16		15	16	15			7	
					23		14	
16		9		12	29		9	
	11	18				8		
							19	12
18	21	10		15				
					10			
	12		23		4	7	29	
		7						

Codeword

Each letter of the alphabet makes at least one appearance in the grid, and is represented by the same number wherever it appears. The letters decoded should help you to identify other letters and words in the grid.

		18			9			1			12			9			4	
11	12	14	1	21	4	25	13						11	5		25	16	
		21			18			25			5			13			21	
10	8	19	10		9	7		15	M		21	20	21	8		16		
					17			26					13					
1	8	25	26	1				18	9	11	1	21	2		13			
		9			21			21			5					10		
13	6	21	18	19	1						26	10	19	19	10	15		
		9						5			1			13		15		
23	5	14	10	6	13	17					13	20	21	1	19			
					17						1			19				
19	25	17		26	B	10	24	13	19					26	10	22	5	
		17			21			25			13			10		9		
16	8	9	19				8	9	17	17	10	22	5		14			
		1			1			3			8			3		3		

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
1	2		3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13											
14	15		16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26												

Guardian cryptic crossword No 27,711 set by Vulcan

1		2		3		4		5		6		7		8
9										10				
11								12						
13						14								15
16				17								18		
19		20								21				
22								23						
24					25									

- Across
- 9

These days, answer to no lord (6,3)
- 10

A clever sort of angle (5)
- 11

Touching a bottom (7)
- 12

Soft soap is smoother (7)
- 13

He wrote in Tamil? Never (5)
- 14

Sort of jelly prepared in our temple (9)
- 16

Be very annoyed, getting oneself distressed? (4,4,4,3)
- 19

Walked out of game? In the US that would be bizarre (4,5)
- 21

To some extent very large and sunny (5)
- 22

Sort of stockings an old trout could get into? (7)
- 23

Colour ranges for new carpets (7)
- 24

Riddle one's spun the previous day (5)
- 25

On the surface, it's no way to proceed (3,6)
- Down
- 1

Smart place to recycle – this? (5,5)
- 2

One may be up for a shower (8)
- 3

Book's bulk (6)
- 4

Unwanted plant went (4)
- 5

Very unlikely to be imported from across the world (3-7)
- 6

Something to eat in the Tube (8)
- 7

Splendour of remarkable result (6)
- 8

Give birth to animal (4)
- 14

Christmas now? (7,3)

- 15

State parting two friends to a significant degree (10)
- 17

Leaving, having finished with hurt feelings (8)
- 18

So Violet ordered a heater (3,5)
- 20

Hurry – I've nothing to eat (6)
- 21

Nervous, swallowing wrong drink (6)
- 22

Join together in fine employment (4)
- 23

Agile agent crossing river (4)

Cryptic crossword

Solution No. 27,704

GUBBINS

INDIANA

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TORMENT

This week's winners of Can You Solve My Problems? are:
Wojtek Krzanouski, Exeter; Ellison Skinner, Earlsdon, Coventry; Emily Trenholm, Thirsk; Rose Brown, Twickenham; Sheila Birchall, Nottingham
Please allow 28 days for delivery

Cryptic crossword Christmas special

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Solution No. 27,699

The winners of the Christmas special puzzle, published on 22 December, are:
Huw Pritchard, London; Mark Ballantine, Hull; Judith Jewell, New Malden; Alice Connolly, Newbury; Dan Miller, Guernsey; Alison Ming, Cambridge; R. J. Green, Crickhowell; Mrs Sarah-Jane Tweed, Norwich; Ruth Martin, Cheltenham; Rev. Preb. Michael Metcalf, Stafford

☹

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**Robert
De Niro's
hating ...
Donald
Trump,
mainly**

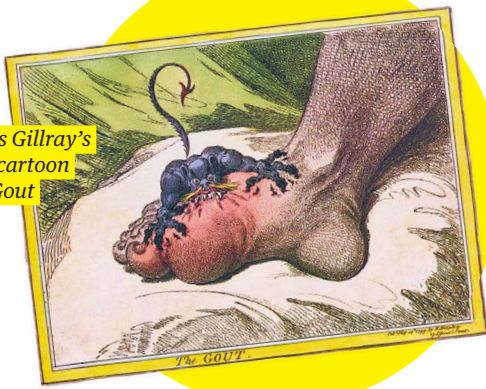
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G2

Pass notes

№ 3,932

James Gillray's
1799 cartoon
The Gout



Gout

Age: Thousands of years, at least since the time of the ancient Egyptians.

What is it, exactly? A form of inflammatory arthritis caused by excessive urate in the blood. Symptoms include joint pain, swelling and redness. Your big toe is often affected.

My big toe?! I don't think so, but maybe.

But isn't that what Paul Manafort had? Trump's former campaign chairman, currently banged up and awaiting sentence for multiple crimes, did appear in a wheelchair with his right foot bandaged. But speculation by the New York Times - and others - that he had gout was ... well, just that, speculation.

But that's why we're doing this, right? Well, it's one reason. There are others.

Such as? Gout - specifically that of Queen Anne, as portrayed by Olivia Colman - features prominently and graphically in *The Favourite*.

I love Olivia Colman! Although maybe a little less so now ... And gout also featured, along with perudo, audiobooks and fried eggs, in a recent list in *Tatler* magazine of ways to be upper class in 2019.

Gout is back in fashion, is that what we are saying? Well, it's certainly back in the public consciousness.

But we won't get it, because we are not Tatler readers, or port-swilling, venison-eating, 18th-century royalty, right? There is no guarantee, I'm afraid. As well as being more visible in culture, gout - long seen as a disease for gluttonous sovereigns - is reportedly on the rise, going up by about 4% a year.

Since when? Research in 2013 found the prevalence of people diagnosed with gout in the UK rose by 64% between 1997 and 2012. Obesity, fatty foods and fizzy drinks have been blamed.

We don't eat fatty food or drink fizzy drinks. This is the Guardian. We eat only lentils and muesli, and drink nettle tea. Again, no guarantee of immunity. A recent study suggests that genetics plays a more important role in the disease's development than diet.

Passed down, like the family silver. Or not.

New New Year resolution: not to go on Who Do You Think You Are? to discover - inevitably - that we are Queen Anne's great-great-great-something, also descended from Henry VIII or any other famous gout sufferer. Good plan. Danny Dyer has almost certainly got gout.

But if gout's cool again ... Cool like Manafort.

Do say: "Doctor, doctor, my big toe's swollen up like a balloon and is hurting something rotten." "Gout?" "But I've only just got in ..."

Don't say: "Gout and proud."

Shortcuts

Should screen horses be seen, not heard?

How can you be sure a horse is a horse? Usually, it is obvious, but no more so than on screen, when you often hear it neigh. And it's driving at least one equestrian-minded ITV viewer mad.



IMDb-user sarahjgodley "thoroughly enjoyed" the recent adaptation of *Vanity Fair*, according to her online review that went viral last week: "EXCEPT for the usual flaw in historical dramas ... Every single time a horse appears on screen, you hear a neigh, even though it's apparent that the horse in question is not neighing." It seemed always to be "the same bloody horse, too", sarahjgodley writes, with mounting heat: "The only time a horse makes a sound like that is when it's a stallion which has the scent of an in-season mare."

"Somewhere in the mists of time", she thinks, a sound engineer recorded the cry of one randy stud and used it to voice every horse on screen.

Sound designer Roland Heap, director of the London-based post-production company Sound Disposition, says that may not be far from the case. "There are only a few thousand sound-effect libraries, and however many million hours of content being created each year - it's inevitable there's some repetition."

But a sound designer's aim is not so much to reflect reality as to evoke an emotional response. In this case, Heap explains, that may mean where there's a horse, there's a neigh. "It's the nature of film sound that quite often we are a little bit 'show and tell'. You look at the screen and go: 'What would the audience expect to hear?'"

The broader soundscape is another factor. "Often a director will want to make the sound seem busier, and the first thing we'll do is look at a scene: there is a horse on screen, therefore we can justify the sound of a horse." Then, Heap says: "You want to go to a horse that sounds distinctively like a horse. It's more about capturing the essence of what's going on. The worlds we create in sound are far more interesting and clear than the reality."

Animals are always making "the most exciting sound that animal can possibly make" - for birds of prey, it is often the same regardless of species. "The red-tailed hawk cry is an absolute classic," says Heap. "I've used that countless times. It's lazy, but it does provoke an emotional response - and it's only a cliché when people start noticing."

And most never do. But sarahjgodley, in concluding her review, put the number of "people who have regular day-to-day dealings with horses in the UK alone" at well over a million - "and we've all noticed, so please, STOP IT!"

Elle Hunt



Harry Potter and the matter of merchandise

In 2001, *Private Eye* mocked the Pottermania surrounding the franchise's first film, *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*. The magazine fabricated ridiculous-sounding merchandise, satirically advertising the "Harry Potter potato peeler", the "Lord Voldemort wheelite bin" and "Quidditch drawing pins".

What was once ridiculous is now reality. In 2018, you can pop into Sainsbury's, Lakeland or WH Smith and pick up the Harry Potter egg cup and toast cutter set (£5). Multiple British brands have launched exclusive Potter ranges: Boots introduced wand-shaped makeup brushes (£20) and Hedwig lip balms (£6); the stationery shop Typo brought out oversized Quidditch slippers (£15); and Primark's Hagrid bauble (£5) made pre-Christmas headlines.

Twelve years after the last book, why are Potter products ubiquitous?

"Harry Potter has really broad appeal to a diverse group of customers, from original Potter fans to those discovering the stories and films for the very first time," says Mark Haynes, a Boots senior buying manager.

Of course, Potter merchandise is not new - Marks & Spencer had a range in the 00s. Yet everything changed last March, when Warner Bros announced a new brand: WIZARDING WORLD™. Encapsulating Harry Potter and JK Rowling's new franchise *Fantastic Beasts*, this allowed Potter merchandise to be sold under a new umbrella (incidentally, an officially licensed colour-changing umbrella is £29.99).

"The increasing demand does not stop at the *Fantastic Beasts* collection, but extends back to the whole Harry Potter universe," says a spokesperson for Cinereplicas, an official wholesaler. Customers who were once happy with Hogwarts scarves now want "more". "As the Harry Potter universe matures and returns, they are seeking 'magic-infused' day-to-day items: fashionable non-replica clothing, kitchenware, stationery," says Cinereplicas. In 2018, the wholesaler launched hair accessories, infinity scarves and cookie cutters - each "a big hit".

With the final *Fantastic Beasts* due in 2024, wizarding merchandise isn't going away. The Voldemort wheelite bin will be coming soon.

Amelia Tait



Vanity Fair was enjoyable. The neighing horse not so much



Move over, oldies, here's Gen Alpha

Grumps might have to rethink criticising the “kids of today” and millennials in the same breath, as the oldest among them are not so young any more. At 22, the youngest millennials are still fresh-faced and leaning on their better-off Gen X or baby boomer parents. And the oldest millennials are 38 - not really kids by any metric, but conceivably still in their parents’ pockets.

Maligned as feckless, entitled, absorbed by screens and uninterested in sex, millennials have been a favourite punchbag for some time. Generation Z, born from mid-1990 on, are next in line for a kicking. After them are Generation Alpha, the first group of millennials’ children, born from about 2011 until 2025. Henry Rose Lee, the intergenerational speaker and author, describes them as “millennials on steroids”. “The oldest millennials didn’t really grow up with digital technology, though of course they’ve inherited it and made it their own,” she says. “People under the age of 22 have virtually grown up with it in its increasing sophistication. They are thus quite different from us oldies.”

Is defining generations this way useful? “You have to be careful about it,” says Karen Rowlingson, professor of social policy at the University of Birmingham. “But we shouldn’t ignore generational divides. Younger people are, on average, facing many more challenges. And, certainly, inequalities within that generation [millennials] are greater.”

Lee says labels can be helpful in understanding how technology, economics and politics have affected different age groups. Millennials, for instance, are the first generation since the 19th century to be worse off than their parents - a misfortune that Gen Z and Gen Alpha are likely to inherit. But, for Lee, a greater concern is the risk of devaluing individuality. “What I normally say to people when I’m presenting a workshop is: ‘We’re going to label the hell out of things, but please don’t do it outside this room.’ Because as soon as you label somebody, you’re judging them.”

Daniel Lavelle

Say what?

Several thousand people have backed a Facebook campaign for Fleetwood Mac’s Stevie Nicks to work a shift at the McDonald’s in Fleetwood, Lancashire. Its motivations are unclear, but supporters have embraced the opportunity for puns such as Never Going Big Mac Again and You Make Grubbin’ Fun.



Arwa Mahdawi



My lack of DIY skills is an embarrassment to lesbians

Lesbians, it’s fair to say, have a reputation for being good with their hands. Girls who like girls love DIY, according to the stereotypes. There’s nothing we enjoy more than pulling on a flannel shirt and sensible shoes and revving up our power tools.

These stereotypes seem to have some basis in reality. A YouGov survey from a few years ago found that American lesbians are uber-confident about their DIY abilities. For example, 77% of lesbians said they could build flat-pack furniture, compared with 58% of heterosexual men and 48% of straight women. And 87% of gay women said they were good at unblocking drains, compared with 78% of straight men. Please get your mind out of the gutter: these are serious statistics.

But I want to know exactly where all these gay home-improvement whizzes are hiding. Stereotypes and surveys are all very well, but I don’t know any lesbians who are good at DIY, least of all me or my girlfriend. Whenever I have to do anything more challenging than changing a light bulb, I call my friend Dan, a man. Or I hire a handyman; it’s often difficult to find a handywoman, although I do try. Obviously, having to rely on a guy for manual work is not great for my sapphic street cred; it probably also makes me a terrible feminist. After all, you can’t exactly topple the patriarchy if you first have to call your mate Dan and ask him which drill bit to use, can you?

Relying on a handyman can also put you in some creepy situations; being home alone with a strange man with lots of sharp tools is never an ideal scenario. Indeed, it is often uncomfortable even if both my partner and I are home because you can usually see it slowly dawn on the service guy that, hang on, we’re not just roommates. Just before Christmas, we had an electrician over to give us an estimate for installing a light. He acted a little off and then, the next day, started WhatsApping us Bible verses. He clearly misunderstood what sort of light we wanted to see. Anyway, suffice to say that we didn’t have him back and we are still living in sin and semi-darkness.

The electrician episode sparked something in me. Right, I decided, enough is enough. I am an empowered woman; it is ridiculous that I can’t put up a shelf or install a light fixture. My new year’s resolution is to be a better lesbian: 2019 is the year I learn to DIY!

Disappointingly, my girlfriend has not been as enthusiastic as I expected. “Are you sure that’s a good idea?” she asked, when I informed her I had enrolled in an “everyday electricity you can do yourself” course. “Didn’t you give yourself an electric shock putting a fork into a toaster?” While it is true I did once give myself an electric shock with a toaster, it is worth pointing out that household appliances are far more dangerous than most people realise. Hundreds of people die every year from toaster accidents, I am sure of it.

So I remain enthusiastic about my DIY ambitions. Hands-on home improvement, I reckon, is the perfect antidote to our digital world. After a long day staring at screens, what could be more fulfilling than putting up a shelf or installing a light fixture? I’ll get back to you on that, actually, as I haven’t actually managed either yet. But, reader, I have bought a drill.



Why a Palestinian woman entering Congress is a big deal

A few years ago, I went with a friend and her family to a Jewish restaurant in New York City known for comfort food and vodka. Early in the evening, its entertainer asked everyone where they were from, and my friend’s dad announced I was Palestinian. He meant well: it was an enthusiastic “Isn’t it great we’re all getting along?” statement. The entertainer wasn’t quite so enthusiastic, and proclaimed to the room: “There’s no such thing as a Palestinian.” I left in tears. It kinda ruined dinner.

While the restaurant incident was particularly unpleasant, it wasn’t the first or last time I have been told Palestinians don’t exist. It happens all the time. I am proud of being Palestinian, but it gets exhausting having to constantly prove your humanity and plead your legitimacy. It gets exhausting reiterating you don’t hate anyone, you just want to be treated with dignity. So, in the end, just to make things easier, you start erasing your identity yourself. I often vaguely say I’m half-Arab, half-English when people ask where I am from. Over time, you stop taking joy in your heritage and tiptoe warily around it instead.

Which is why 3 January, when Rashida Tlaib became the first Palestinian American to be sworn into Congress, was such a momentous day for me and so many other Palestinians. Tlaib did not tiptoe around her heritage; instead she wore a traditional Palestinian thobe (gown) for the occasion, prompting hundreds of other Palestinians to share proud pictures of their own national dresses, with the hashtag #TweetYourThobe. In an article for Elle explaining why she wore her thobe, Tlaib stressed: “We should embrace who we are and not be shamed for it.” It was a shame there was a need for her to say that; a shame I needed to hear it.



You can never say ‘Happy new year’ too much

Over the decades, how many times have you wished people “Happy new year”? Too many, I imagine. You might think you could stop now, given that we are now a week into 2019. However, as I am sure every Guardian reader is aware, Chinese new year is coming up. Followed by Balinese new year, Iranian new year, Jewish new year and Islamic new year. So it’s probably safest to never stop saying happy new year - unless, of course, you want to look massively racist.

Ray Taylor on his weekly walk; the No 30 bus from Ramsey to Huntingdon (right)



Need to sign on? You'll have to walk 24 miles

Each week, it takes Ray Taylor a day to visit the jobcentre. He can't afford the bus – and others won't have the option when the route is cut. Louise Tickle walks with him

Photography **Fabio De Paola**

Twenty-four miles there and back is one hell of a hike to your local jobcentre. But when Ray Taylor, 56, had his benefits cut for 13 weeks after illness meant he missed an appointment to sign on, he had no option but to get out his walking shoes. He doesn't have anyone to give him a lift, and with no money coming in, he couldn't pay the £7 bus fare from the small Cambridgeshire town of Ramsey to Huntingdon, where he is registered for benefits. And if he missed signing on again, he would be sanctioned again.

Taylor, a former electrician – he couldn't afford to update his qualifications after being made redundant and going freelance – is remarkably stoical about what could be a weekly trek. "If you've got a

9 o'clock appointment, you have to set off in the early hours to make sure you get there," he says. There have been "quite a few times" he has set off at two in the morning to avoid penalties for lateness. ("Sanctions" can involve benefits being reduced – or stopped entirely.)

A pre-dawn start in the pitch-black of rural Cambridgeshire with cars and farm lorries rumbling along pavement-less roads doesn't sound all that safe. Taylor, who survived being homeless in Cambridge for seven years before being housed in Ramsey, smiles as his eyes stream from the cold. "There've been a few moments." The police have picked him up a couple of times and taken him home to ensure his safety.

Come the end of March, other Ramsey residents may have to embark on this near-marathon

length trudge. That is because the No 30 bus that is the sole public transport link between Ramsey and Huntingdon is due to be cut. The only alternative for anyone without a car will be to beg lifts, cycle or find the £40 round-trip taxi fare. It is an impossible sum for anyone on a low income, and even most working people couldn't find it five days a week.

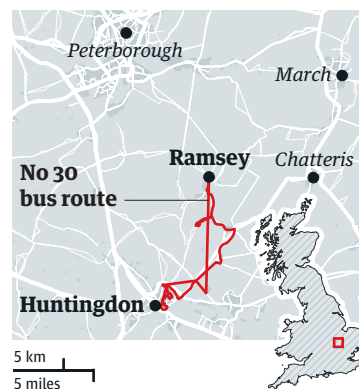
To experience the route Taylor has walked "oh, maybe 20 or 30 times", we meet at the more civilised hour of 8am by the decorative wrought-iron bus shelter next to Ramsey's clocktower. The night before, driving across Cambridgeshire, gusts of wind hurling rain across my windscreen, I began to dread the walk to come. Morning, however, has dawned bright but chilly. Hoiking our rucksacks on our backs, we pull our hats down and head south out of town. We are accompanied by Steve Corney, the town council's new mayor, and Jane Sills, the chair of the Ramsey Million Big Local residents group, which has campaigned for the past 18 months against the cutting of the No 30 bus.

"For the people here, the bus means everything," says Corney over the noise of traffic streaming out of Ramsey. There are no big employers in the town, so there is a daily exodus. "It's frustrating because when you see it, there's a lot of people on it." Corney notes too that housing development means Ramsey's population of 8,000 is expanding.

We pick up the pace as we reach the edge of town, where Corney

peels off. As we march past a long-abandoned RAF station, it is the isolation suffered by older people and teenagers in cut-off rural areas that is on Jane Sills' mind. James Palmer, the mayor of the new Cambridgeshire and Peterborough combined authority, which is reviewing all the area's bus routes, will visit Ramsey later this month, and Sills' group of residents intends to lobby him hard. "He should know by now just how important it is for people on low incomes and for young people that they're not trapped in a small town with their life chances inhibited," she says.

Sills has a strong card up her sleeve. As well as marshalling a petition that gained more than 1,000 signatures – and secured a short-term stay of execution for the route – members of her group decided to use some of the Big Local Lottery money they had been awarded to strengthen their case. A report commissioned from the Campaign for Better Transport revealed that



the local authority subsidy paid to the bus operator Stagecoach to run the No 30 bus is the lowest of any on the list of proposed route closures in Cambridgeshire.

The report also showed, Sills says, "how Ramsey already compares poorly to other parts of the county" in terms of access to buses.

If Cambridgeshire's long-term transport strategy is ratified later this year, Ramsey will be cut off from the new "hub and spoke" public transport system. There will be no buses in or out at all.

Ramsey's residents, of course, are not alone in their plight. The Campaign for Better Transport calculates that since 2010, councils in England and Wales have cut £182m – 45% – from the support they give to bus routes that would otherwise be unsustainable. Some areas have seen particularly harsh cuts: Somerset by 50%, Leicestershire by 72%, North Yorkshire by 81%. In the past year alone, according to the charity's recent Buses in Crisis report, more than 300 routes have been reduced or withdrawn in England and Wales, and 3,347 since 2010.

"Whole areas are now transport deserts," says the charity's chief executive, Darren Shirley. "The people who are the most impacted are those who are most in need of public transport. Jobseekers who are reliant on public transport to get to work. People in poor health who need it to get to hospital." Buses, he points out, are the only form of transport in England not to have a long-term investment strategy.

We walk past fields of sugar beet, along straight, flat roads, and through the villages of Upwood, Great Raveley and Kings Ripton – just over halfway – where we sink thankfully on to a bench in front of St Peter's church. Munching on cereal bars, I ask Taylor if he has had any job offers that would mean he didn't have to keep signing on at the Huntingdon jobcentre.

"There are one or two jobs out there for me, but I think what puts a lot of people off is that employers know what the bus situation is in Ramsey," he says, with some frustration. "I've had offers but I couldn't get there for the start times." The existing three-hourly bus service runs only in the daytime, so he can't do shift work into the evening or overnight.

"We're starting to undermine the fabric of the places that are more isolated," says Nigel Wilcock, the executive director at the Institute of Economic Development. "The figures on how much money has been lost by local authorities are staggering. Councils are almost faced with: 'Do we provide adult social care or do we keep bus routes going?'" When it comes to rural transport, Wilcock says: "Campaigns now have got to be about addressing the funding settlement from central government."

As we tramp onwards, it is



I can't live here without it. I can't drive. I'll be stuck in Ramsey then. What are we going to do?

becoming obvious that this isn't a walk that should be done by anyone who is not in decent physical nick, and with sharp hearing and eyesight to boot. Although Sills' Ordnance Survey skills take us along back roads, away from Taylor's usual path (he follows the bus route, a good stretch of which is on the busy A141), we still have to keep jumping on to the muddy verge, taking care not to end up in deep drainage ditches that run alongside the fields, to avoid cars and tractors.

About 10 miles in, Sills' hips are starting to hurt. Taylor's ankle, which he sprained badly a couple of years ago, is twingeing. My left ankle too - a weak point - is feeling crunchy. At 12.25pm, aching and hungry, we reach Huntingdon's council offices where, as he is being switched over to universal credit, Taylor must sign on every week. His only consolation is that this will eventually become every fortnight.

It has taken just over four hours to do 10.8 miles - Sills' nifty navigation has nibbled a mile off Taylor's route - and nobody fancies a return trip via shanks's pony, with the light failing halfway through. Today, of course, there is a bus that can take us back to Ramsey. So we head to the station, where we meet Ramsey resident Rosetta Casey, 75, who is waiting for the No 30 after a day's shopping.

Casey hasn't heard that the route is due to be axed. She throws up her hands in dismay. "I can't live here without it. I can't drive." She shakes her head. "I'll be stuck in Ramsey then. What are we doing to do?"

On the bus, Sally Greaves, 58, says her son, who has special needs, uses the service four days a week to get to college. "He's doing a gardening course. He needs the early bus in the morning. He knows this route and if they disrupt it, he'll struggle."

With no more money in the local government pot - in fact with cuts

still to come - what can be done to bolster threatened rural bus services? Shirley cites the Total Transport pilots that launched in 2015. These funded 37 rural and isolated areas to work out ways of combining various public agencies' transport budgets and timetables. School buses sit for hours not being used, he observes. The NHS spends a fortune getting patients to appointments, costs that only increase when rural bus services disappear. An estimated £2bn, he says, is being spent annually on public transport services that are not joined up. Instead, says Shirley: "If you design a service to meet the collective needs of the community you can create efficiencies. Local authorities should be talking to the clinical commissioning groups, to people who commission school transport ... all of these teams should be working together to design a more integrated system."

An hour after getting on in Huntingdon, our little walking band disembarks the No 30. Ray is hoping he doesn't have to do the walk again every fortnight, rain or shine, if the bus gets cut - but he will if he has to, he says with a resigned grin.

That may be all right for now - it may even keep him fit - but the idea of Rosetta Casey taking to the roads into her late 70s is clearly ludicrous. With no bus service, she, and many others in this village, will, as Sills fears, be trapped.



Reply all

Private lives



My mother is 85. She lives on her own and is not so mobile, but is independent and tries to be fair to all her four children. Three of us live far away, but my sister lives 15 minutes away yet rarely visits or phones, preferring Mum to go to her. There is no major rift and Mum has been generous to her. I visited Mum for her birthday and we booked a nice lunch. My sister had another event on. She didn't visit on the day, didn't call and hadn't sent a card or present. Mum was upset, but won't say anything. I don't think my sister knows she is hurting Mum. Should I say something?

Your mother might be playing you

Perhaps, if your sister lives locally, she is there more often than you are but you don't realise. I used to be a care assistant for the elderly and would frequently see my clients playing their adult children off each other. How do you know your sister didn't take your mother out for her birthday on a different day? Or wasn't there for breakfast? How do you know she hadn't called first thing in the morning before you arrived, since you were only there for lunch?

Again, I saw clients tell one child that the other never called them and then say the same thing to the other. My grandmother used to do this to my mother and uncle, who spoke to each other quite a lot and knew what the truth was.

I would approach your sister cautiously. Start the conversation with a concern that your mother is slowing down and showing increasing signs of frailty. Ask if she has noticed your mother getting confused. I would not go in full throttle. How would you feel if she launched an attack on you? She might be cross that all you do is go and visit when she has her mother over to her home.

Katewashere

You need to talk to your sister

Try having a conversation with your sister, but make sure you listen to her point of view. It could be that what you are told is very different from what goes on. It could be that your sister has enough on her plate. There are many possibilities, but you won't know what is going on if you don't try to find out.

justamentpatient

Ask your sister how she is coping

How about opening a dialogue like this: I know you live closer to Mum, and I am sure that it is not always easy and probably there is a lot you have done for her that I don't even know about. Are you coping OK and is there anything I or other family members could do to help more?

mouserat

Why should she have to do more?

As the daughter who lives near my mother (also a widow in her 80s), the assumption is that I should do more for my mother than the others. My brother lives with our mother during the week and while he doesn't wash

a dish or cook a meal, I am judged for not cutting the grass.

My sister deliberately chose to live in a different part of the country and sees our mother on her schedule (for two 36-hour slots a year). I refuse to do more for my mother than the others. They made their choices without any judgment. Why should the daughter who lives near the surviving parent get all the work and fewer benefits?

My mother raised me to be a feminist. Would this letter have been written about a brother who lived near his mother but had a busy schedule?

Siobhan Lydon

You should both visit her together

Perhaps suggest to your sister that the next time you come up, you can do a belated birthday lunch with her and your mum, as your mum would love to spend time with both of you together. You will have to remove any hint of disapproval from your voice to avoid making your sister defensive. There is obviously a reason for her behaviour, but it will be difficult to figure it out.

tonichicago

Is there an issue between them?

I might "ask" rather than "say" something. There may be a past issue or issues that you are entirely unaware of that has scarred their relationship to date, so I wouldn't be apportioning blame at this stage. If you go in gently and respectfully, your sister might confide in you. Or not. You can't force a relationship between two adults, but if you ask your sister how she feels about your mum, at least there is a chance you will find out the reason behind the distance, and even possibly help mend their relationship. Either way, I would not try to guilt-trip her into behaving differently, as it never works and would harm your relationship with her. Good luck.

Kittymitts

I need to know where I'm heading in life

I am 30 years old, am studying for qualifications, doing well in my career and have an 11-year-old boy. I now find myself thinking about what life will be like when I am 40 and my son is 21. I do not want more children, but I am wondering what I will do with my life outside my career. I can't help thinking that some of life's big decisions may need to be shaped by a vision of the future - for example, the type of partner I settle with, where I will buy my first property and how I will fill my time. Can anyone help me through this mini life crisis?

Next time

Health

Seven ways to prevent colds or get over them



1 Look after yourself. Studies have suggested that being active can help prevent respiratory infections, but cutting out smoking, reducing alcohol intake and keeping to a healthy diet also help. "Plenty of exercise, good nutrition - keep yourself fit and healthy - and that will keep your immune system strong," says Peter Barlow, an associate professor of immunology at Edinburgh Napier University.

5 If you are sick, be mindful of others. Presenteeism is on the rise - but if you are oozing snot you may want to consider having a duvet day. "If you are constantly coughing and sneezing, it is probably a good idea not to be around other people, spreading the cold," says Van Driel.

7 Remember you will get over it. "The immune system in a healthy person is perfectly capable of dealing with colds and most viruses," says Van Driel. "The cold virus is a benign, self-limiting disease. It is annoying, but it is self-limiting." She adds that we should have confidence in our bodies to manage pathogens - in the vast majority of cases, even if we do nothing, we will get better.

Nicola Davis

2 Get enough sleep. Sleep is critical for health, says Aric Prather, an associate professor in psychiatry at the University of California, San Francisco. In a study published in 2013, Prather and colleagues provided 164 individuals with sleep trackers and sleep diaries, exposed them to the common cold and then quarantined them for monitoring. After taking into account factors including age, sex, smoking habits and alcohol consumption, the team found that sleep was a factor in who fell ill. "People who get less than six hours of sleep are about four times more likely to get the cold than people who sleep more than seven hours," says Prather.



3 Wash your hands. Barlow says: "Anything you can do to avoid exposure to the virus will reduce the chances of catching it." Wash hands frequently, avoid touching nose, eyes and mouth, and stay away from people who are sick.



4 Steer clear of children. Prof Mieke van Driel, the head of general practice at the University of Queensland, says children get more colds because their immune systems are developing. "Parents are at higher risk than people who don't get in touch with children, so staying away from them is probably a good thing."



6 Save your cash. Decongestants - either on their own, or with painkillers or antihistamines - seem to help adults. However, there is little evidence that remedies such as echinacea and vitamin C can prevent or treat a cold, and they are expensive. "You might as well just take a hot toddy, or a hot lemon and honey," says Van Driel. One thing to avoid, she adds, are antibiotics, which "really don't work".



A fat lot of good

The restrictive ketogenic diet - which forces the body to burn fat - is now hugely popular. But is it healthy or sustainable? By Laura Thomas

This time last year, Google searches for the keto diet outranked those for paleo for the first time. Twelve months on, keto recipe books are flying high in the publishing charts, there are emerging permutations (vegan-keto, the vegetable-heavy ketotarian) and a new industry of high-fat snacks aimed at fans is booming.

A ketogenic diet (or keto) is predominantly made up of high-fat foods - including butter, oils, meat, fish, eggs and cheese - and very low-carb vegetables such as cauliflower and leafy greens. This forces the body to burn fat for fuel, rather than glucose. In order to maintain that state, known as ketosis, followers typically restrict their carbohydrate intake to less than 50g a day. And, as protein can also be broken down into glucose, that has to be restricted, too.

By anyone's standards, this is a tough regime to stick to - adherents even have to limit their fruit intake. Jan Vyjidak, 38, a management consultant who has contributed research into energy metabolism, including carbohydrate restriction, to Public Health Collaboration, a charity that promotes healthy lifestyles, has been on the keto diet for nearly a decade. He came to it, he says, to manage his health and improve his athletic performance. "It transformed my life," he says. "It wiped out my constant hunger, and I was able to stop all medication for my asthma and psoriasis within six months."

Being low in fibre, high in saturated fat and red meat, and extremely restrictive, the keto diet does not really align with nutritional guidelines issued by government experts. The diet's critics say it is, at best, a passing trend and, at worst, a socially acceptable form of disordered eating. Its followers, however, swear by it for weight loss and health, sometimes with a fanatical passion.

Claims about the keto diet have been blown way out of proportion, driven by anecdote, hyperbole and its celebrity following (among them, Halle Berry and Vanessa Hudgens). As a registered nutritionist, I am interested in the evidence. Is it possible that such a restrictive diet, so high in fat, could be healthy or sustainable?

What we know today as keto was developed as a clinical tool more



than 100 years ago. In 1911, doctors noticed that children with epilepsy stopped having seizures after two days of absolute fasting, the point when their bodies would have been forced into ketosis. Scientists later noted that ketosis could be achieved through a low-carb, high-fat (LCHF) diet without the risk of infection and mortality rates associated with absolute fasting. Today, children resistant to anti-epilepsy drugs still follow ketogenic diets to prevent seizures, under the management of specialist dietitians.

The finding has led researchers to explore other clinical applications of the keto diet. There is emerging evidence indicating that it could be used as a treatment for type 2 diabetes, but with only one major study done so far, it is too early to draw conclusions about the long-term risks or side-effects. The same can be said about the use of keto diets for cancer recovery. "Dietary interventions for medical conditions are never risk-free, and there is never one size fits all," says Helen West, a registered dietitian and co-founder of the Rooted Project, an organisation dedicated to making evidence-based nutritional

PHOTOGRAPHS: GETTY IMAGES; ALAMY; GUARDIAN DESIGN TEAM



Keto dieters avoid sugar, starch, grains, bread, pasta and fruit - except avocado; milk and reduced-fat cheeses are also off the menu; fats dominate the diet.

advice more accessible. "Our job as clinicians is to explain the risks and the benefits of a particular dietary intervention, based on the scientific literature and our experience, to help people make an informed choice."

Most newcomers are drawn to keto for its potential weight loss benefits, and, while it remains a topic of debate among nutritional scientists, its proponents typically gloss over the unknowns.

Keto advocates claim it gives them an edge for athletic performance by turning them into fat-burning machines. The theory put forward is that, in ketosis, you adapt to use stored fat for energy more efficiently - but this is not borne out by research.

"If you eat more fat, you'll use more fat for energy," says Alan Flanagan, a nutritional scientist.

The real driving force behind keto's popularity is our myopic focus on weight loss

Published research to date has not shown any meaningful benefit to following a keto diet for athletic performance, he says; in fact, it may impede the ability to exercise at higher intensity.

Keto is not a free pass to go hard on the butter and bacon (too much of which may increase the risk of colorectal cancer, according to the World Health Organization). Some studies of LCHF diets have shown improvements in blood lipid profiles, which measure the levels of cholesterol and some fats, but that is typically an outcome of weight loss. Recent research found that, after three weeks of following a LCHF diet, young and healthy adult participants recorded a 44% increase, compared with controls, in low-density lipoprotein cholesterol - the "bad" kind, ultimately increasing the risk of cardiovascular disease.

That is not even accounting for the fact that following a keto diet is hard. You have to be disciplined, vigilant and hyperfocused on every food choice - you can't casually knock back an apple because that may push you out of ketosis. This is not simply a matter of "willpower";

it is also a question of means, energy, resources and time. It prompts the question: why is this incredibly challenging, rigid, expensive diet so popular?

One answer is the "modern caveman" narrative, as strong among keto advocates as it was with its paleo predecessor. This speaks to the compelling, but misplaced, notion that illness is simply a result of modern food processing practices and lifestyles, and can be reversed by returning to a simpler time.

But a diet is a diet is a diet, and they all work the same way - by reducing the net amount of energy consumed. Keto diets may have a slight advantage, as the high fat intake is hypothesised to have satiating properties, helping you stay fuller for longer. But in reality, we have little evidence to show that keto is more effective in the long run than any other diet - or, indeed, that any diet succeeds in keeping off weight.

The real driving force behind keto's popularity is our myopic focus on weight as the sole determinant of health, keeping us on the dieting merry-go-round as those diets become more extreme with each rotation. Yet dieting has been shown to increase body shame, anxiety, depression and disordered eating patterns, particularly binge eating and bulimia. It is also ineffective, being one of the strongest predictors for future weight gain.

The premium placed on weight means we often fail to consider improvements that can be made to health independent of it, such as physical fitness. "Health-promoting behaviours can all have a beneficial effect, even if switching your lifestyle to incorporate them doesn't result in weight loss," says West. "Sadly, the focus on weight loss as the only valuable goal ... can lead to people pursuing weight loss at any cost, and feeling that healthy behaviours are only worthwhile if they result in an aesthetic change."

One possible solution to diet dogma is an approach called intuitive eating: learning to eat mainly in response to physiological hunger and satiety cues. Although a relatively new area of investigation, there are promising findings: a 2017 paper found an increased awareness of internal cues to eat had "the potential to address problematic eating behaviours and the challenges many face with controlling their food intake".

Intuitive eaters seem to have less anxiety and fewer internalised rules about food. Learning to be guided by your body also allows for flexibility and long-term sustainability, without the high likelihood of "failure" imposed by extreme external rules. For some, intuitive eating may be one answer to the question of how to break a nonstop cycle of dieting. Improving fitness is another. But the answer to long-term, sustainable good health is probably not wrapping bacon round everything.

Just Eat It: How Intuitive Eating Can Help You Get Your Shit Together Around Food by Laura Thomas (Bluebird) is out on 10 January

Sexual healing

Pamela Stephenson Connolly I've been cheating on my boyfriend to try to regain control over my sexuality

I've had a terrible relationship with my family my whole life and relied on men for support and comfort. I was sexually assaulted and told myself it didn't mean anything. As a result, I've been cheating on my long-term boyfriend because, in doing so, I remind myself that intimacy has no meaning any more. I even stripped in a club just to feel as if I had control over my sexuality again. Now I only feel capable of intimacy with men I don't care about. It feels wrong while I am with someone that I love so much. I know what I'm doing is wrong. Help me please.

You seem to have reached a very detailed understanding of why you do the things you do, and this is commendable. But gaining self-knowledge doesn't always lead to change or to greater peace or happiness. Even with this knowledge, you are continuing to act in a way that makes you feel guilty and sad - while hoping for a different outcome. For people who are led to act a certain way as a result of trauma, change is more likely to occur not through merely understanding the reasons, but through doing the hard work of healing. It might take time, but facing the original pain and working through the deep feelings could release you from this repetitive pattern. But no amount of therapy will change the fact that monogamy is hard. Commitment is hard. All people in our human society who are sexually alive struggle with these constant challenges.

Pamela Stephenson Connolly is a US-based psychotherapist who specialises in treating sexual disorders



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'Trump is racist and a buffoon. Those he inspires will be smarter'

Robert De Niro famously called Donald Trump a punk, a pig and a dog, and said he wanted to punch him. But he was just getting started. He lets rip to **David Smith**

📷 Photography **Christopher Lane**

Here, with Orson Welles and Spike Lee on the walls, and James Dean and Natalie Wood on the doors to the toilets, is where Robert De Niro might have died. In October, a pipe bomb addressed to the actor was sent to the New York warehouse where his film production company hugs an atrium dotted with vintage movie posters.

A security guard found the suspicious package in the mailroom at 5am and police vehicles swarmed the Tribeca neighbourhood before dawn. De Niro got a call from security early that morning telling him the pipe bomb was being removed. "Naturally you are concerned," he says phlegmatically. "It's just what it is. Just be careful."

Cesar Sayoc, a bodybuilder, pizza deliveryman and fanatical supporter of Donald Trump, was subsequently arrested and charged with sending a total of 13 pipe bombs to Barack Obama, Hillary Clinton and other critics of the president. De Niro says only: "There are a lot of crazy people out there. Everybody's got their reasons."

How did the double Oscar-winner find himself on a hit list alongside Obama and Clinton? The short answer is that De Niro has become one of the most colourful, pugnacious and unsubtle decriers of the Trump presidency.

The late politicisation of De Niro is all the more remarkable because of his reputation as a man of few words, notorious for his terse monosyllabic responses to journalists' questions. He stormed out of interviews with the BBC's Barry Norman - who rashly gave chase - and with the Radio Times, claiming he was being asked questions with a "negative inference". The New York Times mused in 1993: "No one, perhaps, is better suited to being an actor and less suited to being a personality."

Yet when he greets the Guardian he is warm, generous with his time and even garrulous, at least on the subject of Trump. Wearing a black

T-shirt, he relaxes into a chair in a personal office so full of memorabilia it resembles a Robert De Niro museum. He points out a photo of himself with Nelson Mandela, a Godfather poster signed by the cast and a prop from his upcoming film *The Irishman*, directed by his old friend Martin Scorsese. The brooding, saturnine artist has evolved into a genial grandfather. Perhaps it comes as a relief, at 75, to finally not be asked about himself, his method or whether his best work is behind him.

"I'm older now and I'm just upset about what's going on," he explains. "When you see someone like [Trump] becoming president, I thought, well, OK, let's see what he does - maybe he'll change. But he just got worse. It showed me that he is a real racist. I thought maybe as a New Yorker he understands the diversity in the city but he's as bad as I thought - and much worse. It's a bad thing in this country."

Trump, who launched his political career by propagating conspiracy theories about Obama's birthplace, has drawn moral equivalence between white nationalists and anti-fascist protesters and turned back the clock on racial diversity in the White House. De Niro, who has six mixed-race children, admits: "Yeah, I worry, and one of my kids is gay, and he worries about being treated a certain way. We talk about it."

Like many white liberals, he says, he was "naive" about Obama's two election wins and their implication of a post-racial America. "I felt we were on a new thing. I didn't realise how against him certain people were - racially against him, offended that he was there."

Would he call Trump a white supremacist? "Yes," De Niro says instantly. And what about a fascist? "I guess that's what it leads to. If he had his way, we'd wind up in a very bad state in this country. I mean, the way I understand it, they laughed at Hitler. They all look funny. Hitler looked funny, Mussolini looked funny and other dictators and despots look funny."

'They laughed at Hitler - all despots look funny' ... De Niro



"What bothers me is that there will be people in the future who see him as an example and they'll be affected in some way, but they'll be a lot smarter and have many more colours to their personality and be more mercurial and become someone with the same values as he has but able to get much further and do more damage as a despot. That's my worry. There are people who look up to him: 'I want to be like him.' But they'll do it much better and they'll be more smart about it."

De Niro is speaking just after Trump has described his longtime lawyer, Michael Cohen, as a "rat" for cooperating with federal investigators, prompting news networks to play clips from some of the actor's greatest mobster hits, such as *Goodfellas*, *The Godfather Part II* and *The Untouchables*. He muses: "I mean, a mob boss calls people 'a rat'. That means you lied and somebody snitched on you, so you did commit the crime. So that's interesting and he makes mobsters look bad because there are mobsters who will shake your hand and keep their word. He can't even do that."

"He's a con artist. He's a huckster. He's a scam artist. And what bothers me is that people don't see that. I think that *The Apprentice* had a lot to do with that, which I never saw but once, maybe. It's all smoke and mirrors, it's all bullshit."

Trum and De Niro have some things in common. Both are entrepreneurs who own hotels and restaurants. Both are in their 70s. And both are New Yorkers who deliver blunt insults. But they have met just once, De Niro recalls, at a baseball game. They shook hands and that was it. "I never had an interest in meeting him. He's a buffoon." De Niro would not go as far as banning Trump from one of the restaurants he owns but vows: "If he walked into a restaurant that I was in, I would leave. I would not want to be there."

In 2016, De Niro made a video in which he called Trump a punk, a pig and a dog, and said he would like to punch him. Last June, at the Tony awards in New York, the actor took the stage and declared: "I'm gonna say one thing. Fuck Trump!" The primal scream won a standing ovation. The president responded the next day on Twitter, calling De Niro a "low IQ individual" who had taken "too many shots to the head". There were also voices who warned that such profanity-laced outbursts were counterproductive.

Frank Bruni, a New York Times columnist, responded that anger is not a strategy and spewing four-letter words is falling into a trap. "When you answer name-calling with name-calling and tantrums with tantrums, you're not resisting him," Bruni wrote. "You're mirroring him. You're not diminishing him. You're demeaning yourselves. Many

'Richard Nixon was a boy scout compared with what's going on now'

voters don't hear your arguments or the facts, which are on your side. They just wince at the din."

De Niro is aware of the criticism but is not entirely repentant. "I won't do it again because that's not the way to get things done. [But] I felt that this is something I should say because it's basic. Trump is basic. He's just a guy who just thinks he can rattle off his mouth and say anything. Well, I want to say the same thing to him: there are people who are going to say the same thing back to you, no matter who you are."

This touches on a strategic dilemma for the Democratic party. At its 2016 convention, Michelle Obama declared: "When they go low, we go high." Others, however, prefer sledgehammer to sabre. "The things that Trump has done; if Obama had done one-fiftieth, they'd be all over him," says De Niro. "That's why I feel that Democrats have to be more aggressive. You've got to stand up, you can't be so gentlemanly all the time because you've just got to say: 'Sorry, I'm nice to a point, then I've got to push back.'"

"You have to fight fire with fire. You've got to say: 'I'm sorry - let's call a spade a spade. You are who you are and we've got to confront you at your own game.' You can do it in a nice way but you have to be hard and tough about it."

Rightwing media seized on De Niro's Tonys outburst as a symbol of fancy New York and Hollywood elites who are out of touch with salt-of-the-earth folk in middle America ("the deplorables") and driven insane by their loathing of the president. The 2016 election exposed divisions along lines of class, culture and educational achievement: men without university degrees overwhelmingly backed Trump.

De Niro comments: "We have

to really solve the problem with the country and people who are dissatisfied and are so angry that they vote for him thinking that he'd make a difference and not seeing that he in no way will make a difference. There has to be a way for people to come together and work it out and help the people who are in pain now in certain parts of the country that I, as a New Yorker living here, am not aware of. I feel that Obama tried to, at least. He made mistakes, I'm sure, but you have to try and encompass everyone and it made us aware of this schism in the country through what's happening now."

The tribalism is continually reinforced by the media. Rupert Murdoch's Fox News has become all but an extension of the White House. De Niro, a sharp critic of Trump's anti-immigration ideology, is dismayed by the Australian-born mogul's contribution to the US. "Rupert Murdoch became a citizen of this country; look what he's contributed by this. This is what he's going to leave. This is his legacy. It's disgraceful. He's cynical, amoral, but he has a responsibility. He came here as an immigrant, technically, and look what he did. You cannot justify having Fox News as a mouthpiece for the government. It's wrong. It's beyond disgusting."

When Richard Nixon ("a boy scout compared with what's going on now") finally resigned the US presidency, his successor Gerald Ford declared: "Our long national nightmare is over." De Niro is hopeful that the new nightmare can end at the ballot box in 2020. He names Beto O'Rourke, Stacey Abrams and Andrew Gillum - all of whom narrowly lost in the midterm elections - as Democratic candidates that have caught his eye.

'Every negative thing Trump says is really a projection of himself'



De Niro rails against Trump at the Tony awards last June

"You need somebody who's strong enough to outmouth him - because that's all he is, mouth - and smart enough and well-informed enough in a debate, say, to override all that nonsense that he does, because basically it's just name-calling. He has no substance. I don't know how people fall for it. He's just a big blowhard. But it ain't over till it's over as far as I'm concerned with a guy like him, because he's a dirty player."

De Niro, whose life and career have spanned the second world war, the Vietnam war and 9/11, remains optimistic about the future. "I have to be. I look at it like we're in a nightmare now and it's going to pass. I'll look back on this hopefully, if I'm still around" - he leans over and knocks a table - "and say, well, we knew it could happen, it will always change for the better. I have to be optimistic that we'll have people come in with the right intentions to run this country."

One of De Niro's greatest films, *Taxi Driver*, tells the story of Travis Bickle, a damaged, narcissistic, volatile sociopath from New York. The Trump presidency might be described as America's Travis Bickle moment but it has also been the catalyst for a democratic awakening across the country. "I used to joke that Trump would shake it up and now I give him big credit, full credit: he shook it up all right, big time, made everybody including myself much more aware of our civic duty to stand up and make our voices heard about what's happening in this country. We have a lot of problems that we have to work together to fix. It all sounds very noble and all that, but that's the truth. Let's start at home."

Last year, the venerable journalist Dan Rather suggested that Scorsese - a regular collaborator with De Niro - would be the ideal director of a Trump biopic. But it may be an unplayably two-dimensional part. Profiling Trump for the New Yorker magazine in 1997, journalist Mark Singer found him to be a man without a hinterland, basking in the luxury of "an existence unmolested by the rumbling of a soul". De Niro, who turned down the role of Jesus in Scorsese's *The Last Temptation of Christ*, offers an actor's perspective on the president's psychology.

"I don't want to play him ever," he says. "I always find the character's point of view and I can of course find his, but I have so little sympathy for him, for what he's done, the responsibility he's been given and just thrown away. He doesn't care."

"I always say every person has a story that's interesting. It's how you tell it. And of course his 'how you tell it' would be interesting, too, but I've not seen one moment of reflection from him, ever. He knows what he is and everything he says negative about people or things is really a projection of himself. I don't know how he was raised but I never thought there'd be evil people -"

De Niro catches himself. "He's not even evil," he says. "He's mundane."

Arts

'Is it art? We don't know'

In the 90s, Goldsmiths College spawned the YBAs. Now, it has incubated a very different group - whose work is as likely to turn up in an international court as in a gallery. Elizabeth Fullerton meets them

Up a narrow staircase at the labyrinthine Goldsmiths College in London is an airy room where researchers, film-makers, AI experts, investigative journalists and archaeologists pore over computer screens. This is the nerve centre of Forensic Architecture, the research agency that was a strong contender for the 2018 Turner prize and which has gained a name for its meticulous "counter-forensic" investigations into human rights abuses.

In this post-truth era, verification is paramount, so myriad sources of documentation are corroborated in minute detail. On a recent visit I paid them, researchers were synchronising police bodycam film and extended thermal footage with film shot by an activist. Someone else was scrutinising CCTV connected to the recent unsolved murder of an LGBTQ activist in Greece. The investigative film-maker Laura Poitras was visiting and journalists from the New York Times had been over to learn about setting up a visual investigations unit. A team is currently training Chicago activists to respond to police violence.

Goldsmiths is once again the incubator of a new movement, 30 years after Damien Hirst and his fellow students swaggered into British art history with the landmark exhibition Freeze. But where the Young British Artists were about in-your-face ego and irony, this is research based and politically committed, spanning architecture, journalism, law and science. As with all interesting movements, there's debate over whether it's even art.

This movement takes its name

from the Centre for Research Architecture (CRA) at Goldsmiths. Research architecture has nothing to do with designing buildings but everything to do with the politics of space, especially how it is manipulated by states and corporations against civilians and the environment - from drone strikes in Pakistan to mining in the Amazon. Using sophisticated technologies such as remote sensing, 3D modelling and vessel-tracking, hard evidence of wrongdoing is gathered. The final work is as likely to be presented in an international court as in an art gallery. Evidence compiled by Forensic Architecture has been submitted to the International Criminal Court on Israel's 2014 assault on Gaza; to the Inter-American court on Guatemala's genocide; and to the European Court of Human Rights on Italy's role in migrant drowning deaths.

"We are confrontational, interventionist," says architect and activist Eyal Weizman, founder of Forensic Architecture, the most high-profile group to emerge from the CRA. As well as a research agency, Forensic Architecture has also evolved into an investigative, case-driven discipline within the broader field of research architecture. "There's this idea of really working as detectives," explains Lorenzo Pezzani, who has collaborated with the group and teaches a course in forensic architecture at the CRA.

Serving as a petri dish for this new field, the CRA was set up as a postgraduate faculty at Goldsmiths by Weizman in 2005. Fourteen years of experimentation later, it is, according to Polly Staple of the Chisenhale Gallery, one of the most



'Every time we expose a violation, we crack a little bit the monopoly states think they have over information'

important creative bases in the UK. "It offers," she says, "a radically different position to that which is understood as 'art' and 'culture' by mainstream media and the art market."

This is not an art destined for collectors' homes. It's not about beautiful paintings or even self-expression. Students and staff at the Centre for Research Architecture are passionately confronting the power structures responsible for violence and destruction, employing multiple journalistic and technological tools to uncover hidden stories. They call themselves "spatial practitioners" rather than architects or artists,

since exhibiting their films, images, installations and books in galleries is just one aspect of their work, which often includes teaching, collaborating with experts and always ongoing research. Whether they're investigating claims of a so-called climate refugee community in Alaska threatened by global warming or Australia's violations against immigrants offshore, their aim is to effect political change.

Recently, CRA graduate Lawrence Abu Hamdan staged a show that centred on the notion of "ear witness" testimony. In 2016, Abu Hamdan worked with Amnesty to conduct interviews with former detainees of Syria's notorious Saydnaya prison, where inmates are mostly kept in darkness and sound is used as a weapon of torture. The result of this collaboration was presented last year to a German prosecutor in a petition against the Syrian government. For his show, Abu Hamdan displayed a selection of objects such as a popcorn maker, a car door and cannelloni pasta as a

sound effects library, objects which could make the sound of a punch, kick or gunshot.

Where Abu Hamdan explores audio, Alon Schwabe and Daniel Fernández Pascual of the duo Cooking Sections look at the world through the lens of food. Their long-term project Climavore promotes the idea of adapting food production to climate change. Last year the pair built a structure in Skye that functions both as an oyster farm at high tide and a dining table at low tide, where discussions are held with residents, farmers, politicians and fishermen about viable alternatives to Skye's damaging salmon farming industry. "One of the great things we learned at the CRA was how do you really engage with these different stakeholders and agents working in the field?" says Schwabe.

The centre grew out of the lack of an architecture course at Goldsmiths, but given the college's long history of experimentation and activism, it was never going to be a traditional course. "There was a sense that new social and political conditions were unfolding in which new practices and thinkers were urgently needed," says centre director Susan Schuppli, whose own practice explores the implications of damaged ecologies. Her recent project Nature Represents Itself used aerial, underwater and satellite imagery, as well as CGI simulation, to argue that the swirling oil slick from the 2010 Deepwater Horizon spill in the Gulf of Mexico amounted to a kind of camera-less photography, a chemical reaction caused by hydrocarbon atoms interacting with water and sunlight.

Weizman launched the centre as a peer-to-peer



Evidence ... left, Forensic Architecture's Turner prize show; past work on migrant boats with Forensic Oceanography

PHOTOGRAPHS: TERI PENGILLEY FOR THE GUARDIAN; EPA; FORENSIC ARCHITECTURE; COOKING SECTIONS



Space detectives ... from left, lecturer Lorenzo Pezzani; Forensic Architecture's Eyal Weizmann; CRA director Susan Schuppli; Cooking Sections' Alon Schwabe and Daniel Fernández Pascual

Lebanese-British practitioner Helene Kazan is pushing to extend international law to further protect the individual in conflict zones. Paulo Tavares focuses on land and human rights violations in Amazonia, using complex mapping of plants and trees, and testimonies from indigenous communities.

The sea is the arena of Pezzani and film-maker Charles Heller, together known as Forensic Oceanography. Their 2011 project The Left-to-Die Boat drew on an astonishing array of surveillance tools to document the case of a distressed migrant boat from Libya that was left to drift for two weeks without intervention from nearby Nato vessels, resulting in the death of 63 migrants.

For its Turner prize show, Forensic Architecture's multimedia display unravelled the cover-up of the killing of a Bedouin Palestinian teacher by Israeli police during a demolition operation in a Bedouin village. "[The police] were absolutely stunned by the level of analysis that was unleashed on the case. Never has there been a group of modellers, architects, sound analysts doing that," says Weizman. Sifting through information displayed in film, maps, tweets and models is a big ask of the viewer, but it's impossible not to be gripped by the unfolding narrative that's all the more shocking because it's real.

Of course the question that comes up from viewers is: where's the art? One might trace research architecture's lineage to the protest art of the 60s, to social realism, to relational aesthetics, which focuses on social engagement, and to the activist strain of much post-internet art. But does it matter if it doesn't conform to conventional notions?

"What Forensic Architecture propose is a different language," says ICA director Stefan Kalmár. "It's a different set of tools to understand the world and change perspectives. Is it art, journalism, documentary film-making, or architecture? Maybe it's all of the above or maybe it's a new art form. We don't know."

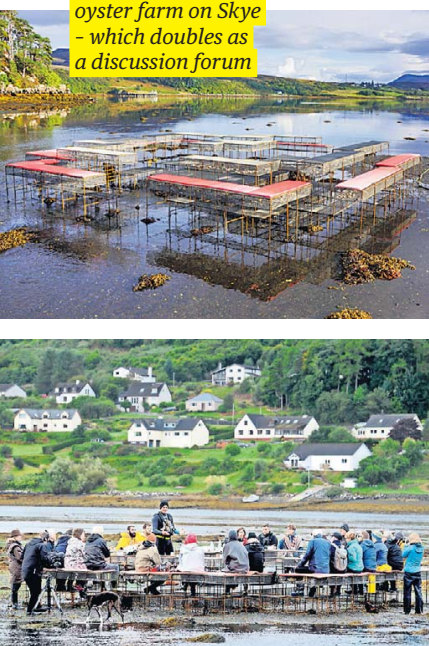
In fact, galleries can be vital forums for the public to access such evidence of state and corporate abuse. Thousands of people saw Forensic Architecture's exhibition at the 2017 art festival Documenta in Kassel, Germany, showing its investigation into alleged state collusion in a neo-Nazi racist killing in the city - which put pressure on the German parliamentary inquiry to accept their findings as evidence in the legal proceedings.

"Every time we expose a violation, we crack a little bit the monopoly that states and governments think they have over information around incidents or around battlefields," says Weizman. "They think they control the space militarily, imagistically and analytically. Every time you break that, they need to realign, to change the ways they work."

PhD programme and brought in like-minded thinkers such as curator Anselm Franke, film-maker Angela Melitopoulos and Céline Condorelli, an artist and architect. This first phase was known as Round Table One, after its gathering point for fierce debates among participants. They realised their combined intellectual resources could be a powerful practical tool. "What made Round Table so unique was it didn't have to deliver architects," says Condorelli. "Architecture is very much a methodology used to look at the world, it's not an object of study at the CRA."

Since those early days, CRA graduates have spearheaded innovations in diverse fields.

Tabling change ... Cooking Sections' oyster farm on Skye - which doubles as a discussion forum



'The biggest idiots in comedy'

When a teacher recklessly screened Monty Python's *Life of Brian*, future comic **John Oliver** fell in love with the anarchic pranksters who created it. Then he met them - and even more chaos ensued

Writing about the importance of Monty Python is basically pointless. Citing them as an influence is almost redundant. It's assumed.

In fact, from now on it's probably more efficient to say that comedy writers should have to explicitly state that they don't owe a significant debt to Monty Python. And if someone does that, they'll be emphatically wrong.

This strange group of wildly talented, appropriately disrespectful, hugely imaginative and massively inspirational idiots changed what comedy could be for their generation and for those that followed.

I first discovered Monty Python when I was probably 10 years old, and back then it felt like something I shouldn't be watching. That was already a pretty big appeal. Then I saw *Life of Brian* in middle school, when a substitute teacher put it on to keep us quiet on a rainy day. I'm not sure he knew exactly what he was showing us, but I've always been hugely grateful for the reckless professional mistake he made that day, because I've never forgotten how it made me feel.

I think what I've always loved about all of Monty Python's work is that they've never been afraid to get into trouble, and *Life of Brian* is the perfect distillation of that. There is a famous episode of a BBC talk show from 1979, when John Cleese and Michael Palin were interviewed alongside the Bishop of Southwark and Malcolm Muggeridge, both of whom were furious about the film. Incidentally, the very name Malcolm Muggeridge is so stereotypically English, it's almost racist. It's the name of someone who should be looking after the owls at Hogwarts. Anyway, for 20 minutes, Muggeridge told them off like a pair of naughty schoolboys, calling what they'd done a "miserable little film", "a squalid number" and "10th rate", and said it contained laughs that were "rather easily procured".

And while everything he said was titanic nonsense, it was that last part that drove me crazy. Because nothing about what Monty Python did was easy - not their TV show, not their albums, and certainly not *Life of Brian*. It's fucking hard to write such incredibly smart, incredibly stupid comedy.

I got to interview all the Pythons after a

Besotted ... John Oliver

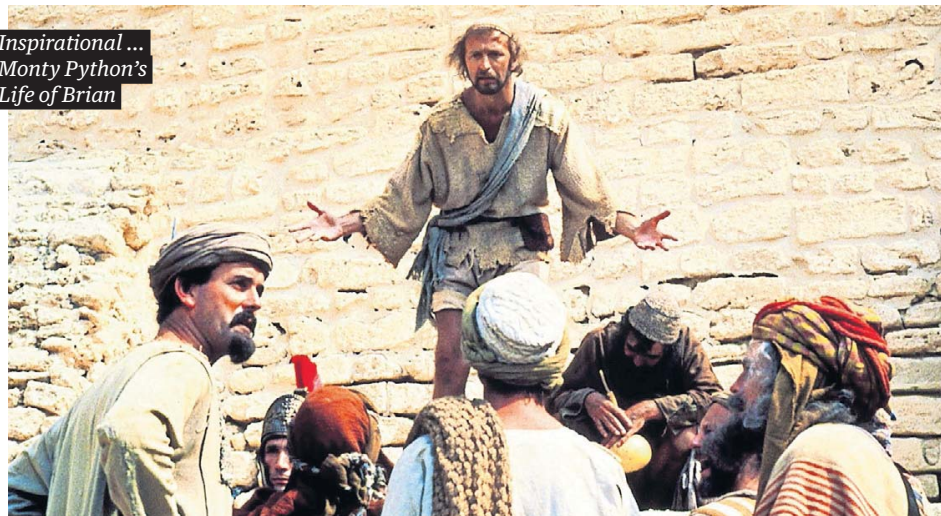


screening in New York a few years ago. It was total, beautiful chaos. The audience seemed to turn up in reverence of them, but you won't find a group of people less interested in hearing how important they are. So, they took it in turns to try and create mayhem - turning their chairs the wrong way around, walking off stage when they got bored, and sitting with the microphones in their mouths. They treated the evening, each other, and their own legacy terribly, and it felt like a far more meaningful tribute.

That's why one of the greatest acts of love I've seen was the funeral for Graham Chapman, who died of cancer in 1989. It was a de facto roast. They saw him off in the spirit he would have wanted, with no respect whatsoever. Here's what Cleese said about one of his best friends: "I guess we're all thinking how sad it is that a man of such talent, such capability for kindness, of such unusual intelligence should now be so suddenly spirited away at the age of only 48, before he'd achieved many of the things of which he was capable, and before he'd had enough fun. Well, I feel that I should say, 'Nonsense. Good riddance to him, the free-loading bastard! I hope he fries.' And the reason I think I should say this is, he would never forgive me if I didn't, if I threw away this glorious opportunity to shock you all on his behalf."

With that in mind, I'll say this to you: Monty Python are a bunch of decaying old men, and they'll all be dead soon. Their shrivelled testicles will become dust in the wind of history. But people will be laughing hysterically at their work long, long after they're gone. *Monty Python Speaks! Revised and Updated Edition: The Complete Oral History by David Morgan, with a foreword by John Oliver, is published by 4th Estate on Thursday.*

Inspirational ... Monty Python's *Life of Brian*



PHOTOGRAPHS: ALLSTAR/PYTHON; CHRIS BUCK/GUARDIAN



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Live reviews



Scorching choreography ...
Kiss Me, Kate

Theatre
Kiss Me, Kate

★★★★☆

Crucible, Sheffield

Until Saturday

Kiss Me, Kate is a musical of many layers. The fiction within a fiction was itself inspired by the on- and off-stage bickering of husband and wife Alfred Lunt and Lynn Fontanne during a production of The Taming of the Shrew. In Cole Porter’s classic musical (with book by another husband-and-wife team, Bella and Sam Spewack), Lunt and Fontanne’s counterparts are the recently divorced director-producer-actor Fred Graham and his leading lady, Lilli Vanessi. As Petruchio and Katherine tear strips off each other on stage, another battle is taking place in the wings.

Theatre tends to revel in shows about shows, and this is no exception. As the pair of quarrelling thespes, Edward Baker-Duly and Rebecca Lock delight in the vanity and egotism of these two former lovers. Baker-Duly’s Fred is a particularly pompous creation,

confident in his own genius yet entirely outshone by Lilli when they take to the stage. For the Shrew scenes, Janet Bird’s versatile design swiftly and comically transforms, with footlights sprouting out of the floor and garish backdrops swooping down from above.

In the big set pieces, Paul Foster’s production excels. Another Op’nin’, Another Show immediately captures the hurry and hubbub of the rehearsal room, moving bodies around the space in carefully choreographed chaos. Too Darn Hot – surely one of the best second-act openers in musical theatre – oozes across the stage like melted butter, slowly heating to a fierce sizzle. Even in the chill of a Yorkshire winter, Matt Flint’s scorching choreography makes you feel the sweat of summer-time Baltimore on your skin.

Other numbers fall a bit flat. Brush Up Your Shakespeare, one of the show’s big hits, lacks the wit and mischief the song demands. As the double act of gangsters-

turned-actors, Delroy Atkinson and Joel Montague gamely clown around the stage, but their delivery muffles much of Porter’s Bard-based punning. Elsewhere, though Lock furiously belts out the lyrics of I Hate Men, restricting her to a tabletop for most of the song strips the sentiment of any depth, reducing the physical comedy to various riffs on the hip thrust.

Which brings us, inevitably, to the gender politics. In some ways, Porter and the Spewacks’ musical confronts and mocks the misogyny of Shakespeare’s play. In songs such as Bianca’s gleeful Tom, Dick or Harry and Petruchio’s I’ve Come to Wive It Wealthily in Padua, the marriage market and the commodification of women are roundly ridiculed. In this version, the Padua scenes are knowingly cartoonish, further enclosing Shakespeare’s plot within parodying quotation marks. And as Lois/Bianca, Amy Ellen Richardson is in absolute command of her character’s sexuality, which she both wields and relishes.

Still, there’s something a tad uncomfortable about watching a comedy that hinges on a woman acting under coercion, and closes with a song about wives’ obedience to their husbands. One gag essentially revolves around a man publicly beating a woman (really not funny), while the power of the female characters is still typically limited to their desirability. Foster’s production is certainly conscious of this, and tries hard to ensure that the women – especially Lock’s funny and ferocious Lilli – give as good as they get. But in an otherwise fun piece of festive frivolity, the treatment of women leaves a bitter taste on the tongue.

Catherine Love

Second-act opener **Too Darn Hot** oozes across the stage like melted butter, heating to a fierce sizzle

Inspired improv ...
the National Youth Orchestra



Classical
NYO/Karabits

★★★★☆

Barbican, London

At Royal Concert Hall, Nottingham, tonight

One thing guaranteed to enliven early January’s flat musical calendar is the National Youth Orchestra throwing itself at a masterpiece. Sibelius’s Symphony No 2 found Kirill Karabits pushing his 164 players as hard as any of his professional orchestras, drawing out string playing of depth and warmth and some beautiful woodwind work. The third movement hurtled into a finale whose closing moments glowed. This is, one could argue, the main purpose of the NYO: good old-fashioned training on works that will follow the musicians through their lives.

Another, especially given the NYO Inspire programme, is making orchestral playing look fun – presumably the thinking behind opening with Rick Dior’s Science Fiction, a frenetic, shallow mashup of Latin rhythms and B-movie clips. The dozen-strong percussion section was out front, backed by wind and brass, flanked by harps. Pay too much attention to the aliens getting zapped on the screen above and you would have missed the theremin player casting spells into thin air. Where were the string players? Out back, ready to process into the auditorium to provide rhythmic clapping and wordless singing towards the end.

Then, in a gesture that was semi-effective but that other orchestras could learn from, they returned, with violins, for some improv to cover the lengthy stage rearrangement for John Adams’s Doctor Atomic Symphony. Adams’s music, based on themes from his 2005 opera about the first atomic bomb test, weakens without its dramatic context, but his trademark gatherings of momentum were effective, the trumpet and trombone solos brilliant. It was persuasive work by a young orchestra who are engaging with 21st-century music and the big ideas that inspired it.

Erica Jeal

Theatre
The Cat in the Hat

★★★★☆

Curve, Leicester

Until Saturday. Then touring.

Before Dr Seuss’s infamous Cat has made his entrance, the audience has been soaked with water pistols and raucously encouraged to sing, dance and holler. This new version of the classic picture book doesn’t hold back. It’s a bit too in-yer-face for this critic but it will leave you brimming with energy, and perhaps a little dazed.

Suba Das’s pumped-up production of Katie Mitchell’s adaptation has been created in association with the National Centre for Circus Arts, and the focus is on spectacle rather than storytelling. Nana Amoo-Gottfried’s Cat wears a black furry coat with a big bushy tail, and spends a great deal of time balancing on top of a giant circus ball. Concentration is etched on to his face as he wobbles away and tries to hold on to a book, boat, fish and a fully iced cake. There’s an air of anxiety, which is understandable



Rascal reborn as a circus star ...
Nana Amoo-Gottfried

but a little off-putting. Where’s the eerily confident Cat in the Hat we’ve come to know and love – and even fear a little?

Charley Magalit, as the fish, wears a bright orange dress and wig, and rolls on to the stage in a human-sized hamster ball. It’s a spectacular entrance but it’s quite tricky to hear what she is saying, or singing, inside

her giant plastic ball. There are similar distractions when it comes to Melissa Lowe and Sam Angell, who play young Sally and her brother. Both actors work hard to keep the children engaged, scampering excitedly about Isla Shaw’s sketchbook set and right through the audience. Unfortunately, they’re forced to compete with David Gregory’s booming sound design, which underlines every physical gag with a loud crash, bang or wallop.

Tasha Taylor Johnson’s original songs are high-spirited and fun but – and this feels like a crucial oversight – they break up the hypnotic rhythm of Dr Seuss’s virtuoso verse. It’s down to the Cat’s manic sidekicks, Thing 1 and Thing 2, to recapture the freewheeling energy of the book. Celia Francis and Robert Penny fly through the air and clamber up the living room walls, fizz let free from a can. They’re an absolute delight: the cat’s whiskers.

Miriam Gillinson

PHOTOGRAPHS: MANUEL HARLAN; TRACEY WHITEFOOT; SOPHIA EVANS FOR THE OBSERVER

TV and radio



Martin Clunes as DCI Colin Sutton in Manhunt

Review Manhunt ITV

Lucy Mangan
Martin Clunes's lightness of touch is evident in this drama about the real-life murders of three young females

★★★★☆☆



I understand the calls for fewer dramas that use as their jumping-off place the murders of young women. Dramas in which the lineaments of a luminescent, semi-naked-to-a-carefully-contracted-degree, smooth-fleshed, blood-spattered female corpse are traced by a slow-moving camera to galvanise the tortured protagonist to push himself ever harder in pursuit of justice for the innocent victim and redemption for himself. And I vacillate. Sometimes I think TV should try harder, avoid lazy conceits, stop shoring up the cultural shibboleth that says men are heroes and women natural victims. And sometimes I think men should stop killing women so much in real life, so that television might mercifully follow suit. I don't see much hope for the medium's success if it simply denies the truth at every turn, nor much use in doing so. Although, of course, there are always less lovingly-lingering ways to portray it.

The portrayals of real-life murder cases generally avoid this pitfall. Even the most obtuse writer and director will usually have the common decency not to drool over a living family's loved and lost one, or use her as mere window dressing for another's story. They raise concerns about exploitation and the raking over of terrible griefs and, if the programme is not made with the explicit consent of the bereaved, then I suppose it is a matter of deals between God, the devil and their conscience all round and hoping for the best.

It is not clear how happy - or otherwise - the families of murdered 13-year-old Milly Dowler, 22-year-old Amélie Delagrangé and 19-year-old Marsha McDonnell are about Manhunt, the ITV adaptation of the memoirs of Colin Sutton, the detective in charge of the Delagrangé investigation that came to identify Levi Bellfield as the killer of them all. But, running over three consecutive nights, this sober, responsible production that has even managed to avoid the temptation of hyping it as Martin Clunes's first foray into straight drama and aggrandising him or the production at their expense.

Clunes does fine work as an utterly ordinary detective finding himself in charge of an utterly extraordinary investigation. His fleetness and lightness of touch remain, but are pressed into the service of credibility

rather than comedy. As the pressures and politics accumulate, Sutton remains, as humans do, still able to flex and chide and laugh, and keep himself and others around him sane. When his second-in-command reassures him that he is up to the investigative task with the words "You're as good for this as anyone", his reply, "Now you've ruined it", restores them both, and back to work they go. It is one of numerous subtle, gentle moments in Ed Whitmore's script that aerates what could otherwise be a suffocating story.



This sober production avoids hyping Clunes's foray into straight drama

Delagrangé's battered body is found on Twickenham Green on 19 August 2004. First, she must be identified - she has no ID on her - and then the police can set their faces towards whoever saw fit to raise a hammer and kill her after she missed her stop and had to walk home across a patch of common land alone after dark.

The drama's mapping of the murder squad's work is almost as detailed as the work itself. It moves outwards in concentric circles from the tent erected over the body, to the fingertip search of the green, to the repositioning of the cordon to stop contamination of the scene by a careless public, and then on through the CCTV tapes from further and further afield that gradually piece together Delagrangé's movements and - eventually - the brief appearance just before her murder and disappearance, just after, of a van. More circles, wider-spaced, emanate, meanwhile, from McDonnell's case. She was killed the year before Delagrangé, in the same part of London, with a hammer as she walked home alone from a bus stop. But the investigation was wound down, prematurely in Sutton's view, when they found a likely suspect, even though he was sectioned before he could be arrested or charged. In the overlap of this awful Venn diagram, a murder can be found.

When Delagrangé's parents arrive from France, Sutton takes them to where she died. Her mother presses her palm to the blood-soaked turf. No redemption anywhere.

And another thing

I still haven't mustered whatever exactly is needed - Courage? Detachment? Meths? - to broach the Bros documentary. I will, though. I will.

Watch this



Brexit: The Uncivil War
9pm, Channel 4

If you thought you already knew all there was to know about Brexit, prepare for a surprise as writer James Graham dissects one of the most controversial events in recent history in a shocking topical drama about the 2016 European Union referendum temptingly tagged: "Everyone knows who won, but not everyone knows how". Benedict Cumberbatch is typically magnetic as crumpled Leave campaign mastermind Dominic Cummings. Must-see television.

Mike Bradley

The Babes in the Wood Murders: The Prosecutors
9pm, BBC Two

A swiftly completed documentary following the conviction in December of Russell Bishop for murdering two nine-year-old girls in Brighton in 1986. Bishop was acquitted but, after three decades during which he was imprisoned for a similar subsequent crime, he was retried on the basis of modern DNA analysis. Cameras track the process, and the girls' weary, devastated parents speak. Jack Seale

How to Lose Weight Well
8pm, Channel 4

If it's January, it must be time to bring out the diet shows, so here comes a new series from doctors Xand van Tulleken and Helen Lawal. There's a six-week challenge to compare cabbage soup and potato diets, and one brave soul eats nothing but Greggs. Hannah Verdier

Spencer, Vogue and Baby Too
9pm, E4

It is no surprise that TV natives Made in Chelsea's Spencer Matthews and

his wife, model Vogue Williams, who met on the set of The Jump, can't resist having cameras follow them as they embrace first-time parenthood. This week, they prepare for the arrival of baby Theodore by joining an antenatal exercise class. MB

In Search Of
9pm, History

The popular 1970s US series In Search Of saw Leonard Nimoy raise a sceptical eyebrow to popular myths and mysteries. This reboot sees current Spock Zachary Quinto take the questing reins, starting with an inquiry into alien life where he interviews zealous abductees and marvels at a big dish in West Virginia. Graeme Virtue

Raw Recruits: Squaddies at 16
10pm, Channel 5

New series following teenagers as they begin training at the Army Foundation College in Harrogate. The confiscation of phones is the first of many shocks: the recruits display both bravado and undisguised misery as the gratuitous shouting, early starts and grim-looking manoeuvres begin. Phil Harrison

BBC One	BBC Two	ITV	Channel 4	Channel 5	BBC Four
<p>6.0 Breakfast 9.15 Rip Off Britain: Holidays 10.0 Homes Under the Hammer (R) 11.0 Wanted Down Under 11.45 Caught Red Handed 12.15 Bargain Hunt 1.0 News 1.30 Regional News 1.45 Doctors (T) 2.15 Father Brown (T) 3.0 I Escaped to the Country (T) (R) 3.45 The Farmers' Country Showdown (T) New series. Beekeeper Valentine and market gardener John visit St George's market in Belfast. 4.30 Antiques Road Trip (T) 5.15 Pointless (T) (R) 6.0 News (T) 6.30 Regional News (T) 7.0 One Show (T)</p>	<p>6.0 Wanted Down Under (R) 6.45 Bargain Hunt (R) 7.30 Family Cooking Showdown (R) 8.30 Westminster in Review 9.0 News 10.0 Victoria Derbyshire 11.0 Newsroom Live 12.15 Politics Live (T) 1.0 Think Tank (T) (R) 1.45 Reel History of Britain (T) (R) 2.15 Getting the Builders In (T) (R) 3.0 A Place to Call Home (T) (R) 3.50 A Place to Call Home (T) (R) 4.40 The Wonder of Animals (T) (R) 5.15 Flog It! (T) (R) 6.0 Eggheads (T) 6.30 Great Alaskan Railroad Journeys (T) 7.0 Celebrity Antiques Road Trip (T)</p>	<p>6.0 Good Morning Britain (T) 8.30 Lorraine (T) 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show (T) 10.30 This Morning (T) 12.30 Loose Women (T) 1.30 News (T) 1.55 Local News (T) 2.0 Judge Rinder's Crime Stories (T) 3.0 Dickinson's Real Deal (T) 3.59 Local News and Weather (T) 4.0 Tipping Point (T) 5.0 The Chase (T) 6.0 Local News (T) 6.30 News (T) 7.0 Emmerdale (T) A wedding descends into chaos. 7.30 Coronation Street (T) Jenny begs Liz to drop the charges against Johnny.</p>	<p>6.30 The King of Queens (T) (R) 7.45 Everybody Loves Raymond (T) (R) 8.45 Frasier (T) (R) 9.45 Frasier (T) (R) 10.10 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA (T) (R) 11.05 Undercover Boss USA (T) (R) 12.0 News (T) 12.05 Sun, Sea and Selling Houses (T) (R) 1.05 Find It, Fix It, Flog It (T) (R) 2.10 Countdown: Champion of Champions (T) 3.0 A Place in the Sun (T) 4.0 The £100k Drop (T) 5.0 Couples Come Dine With Me (T) 6.0 The Simpsons (T) (R) 6.30 Hollyoaks (T) (R) 7.0 News (T)</p>	<p>6.0 Milkshake! 9.15 Jeremy Vine 11.15 GPs: Behind Closed Doors (T) (R) 12.10 News (T) 12.15 Yorkshire Vet (T) (R) 1.15 Home and Away (T) 1.45 Neighbours (T) 2.15 FILM The Gourmet Detective (Scott Smith, 2015) (T) 4.0 Friends (T) (R) Double bill. 5.0 News (T) 5.30 Neighbours (T) (R) 6.0 Home and Away (T) (R) 6.30 News (T) 7.0 Gallagher Premiership Rugby (T) Rugby union highlights of Leicester Tigers v Gloucester, Wasps v Northampton Saints and Exeter Chiefs v Bristol Bears.</p>	
<p>7.30 Match of the Day Live: The FA Cup (T) Wolves v Liverpool (kick-off 7.45pm) Coverage of the third-round fixture between the Premier League sides, which takes place at Molineux. Presented by Gary Lineker, with analysis by Alan Shearer and Ian Wright.</p>	<p>8.0 Only Connect (T) First-round losers the Dragons and the Three Peaks compete. 8.30 University Challenge (T) With Jeremy Paxman. 9.0 The Babes in the Wood Murders: The Prosecutors (T) The culmination of a 32-year fight for justice in a double child murder.</p>	<p>8.0 Britain's Busiest Motorway (T) (R) Traffic officers are called to remove a cupboard from the carriageway. 8.30 Coronation Street (T) Duncan threatens to call the police when Tim arrives at his door. 9.0 Manhunt (T) The team try to identify the white van discovered from CCTV.</p>	<p>8.0 How to Lose Weight Well (T) New series. Xand van Tulleken and Helen Lawal oversee proceedings as more people attempt popular diets. 9.0 Brexit: The Uncivil War (T) Drama exploring the 2016 EU referendum. With Benedict Cumberbatch and Rory Kinnear.</p>	<p>8.0 Police Interceptors (T) Steve is involved in a high-speed pursuit. 9.0 Chris Tarrant: Extreme Railway Journeys (T) New series. The broadcaster takes a trip across the Alps, beginning in Vienna before a foray into one of the world's worst avalanche zones.</p>	<p>8.0 Fake Or Fortune? (T) Fiona Bruce and Philip Mould look at the career of the notorious Dutch forger Han van Meegeren. 9.0 The Truth About Getting Fit (T) Michael Mosley and a team of scientists investigate some of the best ways to reap the benefits of exercise.</p>
<p>10.0 News (T) 10.30 Regional News (T) Weather 10.45 Have I Got a Bit More News for You (T) (R) Jeremy Paxman hosts. 11.30 Graham Norton's Good Story Guide (T) (R) The art of telling a good story, with the likes of Rob Brydon. 12.20 Weather for the Week Ahead (T) 12.25 News (T)</p>	<p>10.0 Two Doors Down (T) New series of the comedy starring Arabella Weir. 10.30 Newsnight (T) Weather 11.15 Amazon: Earth's Great Rivers (T) (R) The latest discoveries along the mighty Amazon. 12.15 Sign Zone Nadiya's Party Feasts (T) (R) 1.15 Holby City (T) (R) 2.15 This Is BBC Two (T)</p>	<p>10.0 News (T) 10.30 Local News (T) 10.45 Bradley Walsh: When Dummies Took Over the World (T) (R) Britain's most famous puppet stars. 11.45 Bradley Walsh & Son: Breaking Dad (T) (R) 12.10 Cold Feet (T) (R) 1.0 Jackpot247 3.0 Jeremy Kyle (T) (R) 3.55 ITV Nightscreen</p>	<p>11.05 Ramsay's 24 Hours to Hell and Back (T) A dog-friendly bistro in Kansas. 12.05 SAS: Who Dares Wins (R) 1.0 The Crystal Maze (R) 1.55 Best of Both Worlds (R) 2.50 Food Unwrapped (R) 3.15 CDWM (R) 4.10 Embarrassing Pets (R) 4.35 The £100k Drop (R) 5.30 Fill Your House for Free (R)</p>	<p>10.0 Raw Recruits: Squaddies at 16 (T) New series following basic army training. 11.05 Secrets of the SAS: In Their Own Words (T) (R) 12.05 Police UK: Armed & Deadly (T) (R) 1.0 Teleshopping 3.0 Access (T) 3.10 GPs: Behind Closed Doors (T) (R) 4.0 Tattoo Disasters UK (T) (R) Double bill.</p>	<p>10.0 Storyville: The Ice King - John Curry (T) A profile of the groundbreaking Olympic figure skater. 11.25 Premium Bond With Mark Gatiss and Matthew Sweet (T) Profiles of Bond actors. 12.20 Battle for the Himalayas: The Fight to Film Everest (T) 1.20 Natural World (T) 2.20 The Truth About Getting Fit (T)</p>

Other channels

Dave

6.0am Teleshopping
7.10 Rocket City Rednecks Double Bill
8.0 American Pickers
9.0 Storage Hunters UK Double Bill **10.0** American Pickers **11.0** American Pickers **12.0** American Pickers **1.0** Top Gear Double Bill **3.0** Timber Kings **4.0** Projects in the House Double Bill **5.0** Top Gear Double Bill **7.0** Border Force: America's Gatekeepers **8.0** Drug Wars Double Bill **9.0** Live at the Apollo **10.0** Taskmaster **11.0** QI Double Bill **12.20** Mock the Week **1.0** QI Double Bill **2.30** Mock the Week **3.05** Parks and Recreation Double Bill **4.0** Teleshopping

E4

All programmes to 7pm are double bills **6.0am** Hollyoaks **7.0** Mike & Molly **8.0** Melissa & Joey **9.0** The Goldbergs **10.0** The Big Bang Theory **11.0** Young Sheldon **12.0** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **1.0** The Big Bang Theory **2.0** Melissa & Joey **3.0** How I Met Your Mother **4.0** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **5.0** The Goldbergs **6.0** The Big Bang Theory **7.0** Hollyoaks **7.30** Young Sheldon **8.0** The Big

Bang Theory Double Bill **9.0** Spencer, Vogue and Baby Too **10.0** Don't Tell the Bride **11.05** The Big Bang Theory Double Bill **12.05** Gogglebox **1.10** First Dates **2.10** Spencer, Vogue and Baby Too **3.0** Don't Tell the Bride **3.55** The Big Bang Theory Double Bill **4.35** Mike & Molly Double Bill **5.15** How I Met Your Mother

Film4

11.0am **FILM** The Duel at Silver Creek (1952) **12.35** **FILM** The Three Musketeers (1973) **2.45** **FILM** The Hound of the Baskervilles (1959) **4.35** **FILM** Rawhide (1951) **6.15** **FILM** The Hunger Games (2012) **9.0** **FILM** Bridge of Spies (2015) **11.45** **FILM** The Last Days on Mars (2013) **1.45** **FILM** The Rum Diary (2011)

ITV2

6.0am The Planet's Funniest Animals **6.20** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **7.10** You've Been Framed! Gold **8.0** Emmerdale **8.25** Coronation Street Double Bill **9.25** The Ellen DeGeneres Show **10.20** Superstore Double Bill **11.15** Dress to Impress **12.15** Emmerdale **12.45**

Coronation Street Double Bill **1.45** The Ellen DeGeneres Show **2.35** The Jeremy Kyle Show **3.45** The Jeremy Kyle Show **4.55** The Jeremy Kyle Show **6.0** **FILM** Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone (2001) (FYI Daily is at 7pm) **9.0** Family Guy Double Bill **10.0** American Dad! Double Bill **10.55** Family Guy Double Bill **11.55** The Cleveland Show **12.25** Plebs Double Bill **1.20** The Force: Manchester **2.20** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen

More4

8.55am A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun Double Bill **11.05** Car SOS **12.05** Time Team Double Bill **2.15** Come Dine With Me **2.50** Come Dine With Me **3.20** Come Dine With Me **3.50** Come Dine With Me **4.20** Come Dine With Me **4.55** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun **5.55** The Super-vet **6.55** Car SOS **7.55** Grand Designs **9.0** Car SOS **10.0** Inside Jaguar: Making a Million Pound Car **11.05** 24 Hours in A&E **12.10** 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown **1.10** Kitchen Nightmares USA **2.05** Car SOS **3.10** 8 Out of 10 Cats Uncut

Sky1

6.0am Monkey Life **7.0** RSPCA Animal Rescue **8.0** Road Wars **9.0** Babylon 5 **10.0** Warehouse 13 **11.0** NCIS: Los Angeles **1.0** Hawaii Five-0 Double Bill **3.0** SWAT **4.0** Modern Family Double Bill **5.0** The Simpsons **5.30** Futurama Double Bill **6.30** The Simpsons **7.0** The Simpsons **7.30** The Simpsons **8.0** A League of Their Own **9.0** **FILM** Battle: Los Angeles (2011) **11.15** The Force: Manchester **12.15** Hawaii Five-0 Double Bill **2.05** Brit Cops: War on Crime **3.0** Hawaii Five-0 **4.0** Babylon 5 **5.0** Futurama

Sky Arts

6.0am Beethoven, Brahms & Chopin **7.0** Giselle **9.0** California Dreamin': The Songs of the Mamas and the Papas **10.15** The Hollies: Look Through Any Window **12.45** Tales of the Unexpected Double Bill **1.45** The Music of Buddy Holly and the Crickets **3.45** Paul Simon: Live at Hyde Park **5.0** Discovering: Walter Matthau **6.0** Discovering: Shirley MacLaine **7.0** The Sixties **8.0** André Rieu: How It All Began **9.0** Miss

Saigon: 25th Anniversary Performance **12.0** Clint Eastwood: A Life in Film **1.45** The Sixties **2.45** Hollywood: Singing and Dancing **4.0** Discovering: Walter Matthau **5.0** Discovering: Shirley MacLaine

Sky Atlantic

6.0am Fish Town **7.0** The Guest Wing **8.0** Storm City **9.0** The West Wing Special **10.0** The West Wing **11.0** House Double Bill **1.0** Without a Trace **2.0** Blue Bloods **3.0** The West Wing Double Bill **5.0** House Double Bill **7.0** CSI: Crime Scene Investigation **8.0** Blue Bloods **9.0** Game of Thrones **10.10** Game of Thrones **11.20** Game of Thrones **12.20** Escape at Dannemora **1.30** Banshee **2.30** Entourage **3.05** The Last Panthers **4.05** The West Wing Double Bill



Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone, ITV2

Radio

Radio 3

6.30 Breakfast. With Petroc Trelawny. **9.0** Essential Classics. With violinist Jennifer Pike. **12.0** Composer of the Week: Felix Mendelssohn (1/5) **1.0** News **1.02** Lunchtime Concert. Pianist Alexander Gavrylyuk plays Bach, Rachmaninov and Prokofiev. **2.0** Afternoon Concert, Shoku Kanneh-Mason performs Elgar's Cello Concerto in E minor. **5.0** In Tune **7.0** In Tune Mixtape **7.30** BBC Proms 2018: Prom 63 Repeat. András Schiff performs Bach's *The Well-Tempered Clavier, Book Two*. **10.0** Music Matters: Music and Language (R) **10.45** The Essay: An Ode to John Keats (1/5) **11.0** Jazz Now. Art Themen in concert. **12.30** Through the Night

Radio 4

6.0 Today **9.0** Start the Week: Searching for Happiness **9.45** (LW) Daily Service **9.45** (FM) Book of the Week: We Are Displaced - Malala's Story, by Malala Yousafzai. (1/5) **10.0** Woman's Hour **11.0** The Untold. With Grace Dent. (8/13) **11.30** For the Love of Leo: The Countess of Mars. Comedy by Michael

Chaplin. Mark Bonnar and Jemma Redgrave star. (2/4) **12.0** News **12.01** (LW) Shipping Forecast **12.04** Adrian Mole: The Cappuccino Years. By Sue Townsend. (6/10) **12.15** You and Yours **1.0** The World at One **1.45** The Battles That Won Our Freedoms: Freedom from Absolute Monarchy. (1/10) **2.0** The Archers (R) **2.15** Drama: Stone, by Martin Jameson. (1/5) **3.0** Round Britain Quiz: Heat Two. With Tom Sutcliffe. (2/12) **3.30** The Food Programme (R) **4.0** I Was Batman's Catwoman. Andrew McGibbon talks to actor Julie Newmar about being Catwoman. **4.30** The Infinite Monkey Cage: Microbes - Secret Rulers of the World? (1/6) **5.0** PM. Evan Davis presents. **5.54** (LW) Shipping Forecast **6.0** News **6.30** The Unbelievable Truth (3/6) **7.0** The Archers. Tensions flare at Jennifer's party. **7.15** Front Row. Arts roundup. **7.45** All God's Children Need Travelling Shoes (R) (1/5) **8.0** Let's Raise the Voting Age **8.30** Crossing Continents: The Brazilian Footballer Who Never Was (R) **9.0** A Mother's Mind (R) **9.30** Start the Week (R) **9.59** Weather

10.0 The World Tonight. With Ritula Shah. **10.45** Book at Bedtime: Adrian Mole - The Cappuccino Years (R) **11.0** When Greeks Flew Kites **11.30** Today in Parliament **12.0** News **12.30** Book of the Week (R) **12.48** Shipping Forecast **1.0** As World Service **5.20** Shipping Forecast **5.30** News **5.43** Prayer for the Day **5.45** Farming Today **5.58** Tweet of the Day (R)

Radio 4 Extra

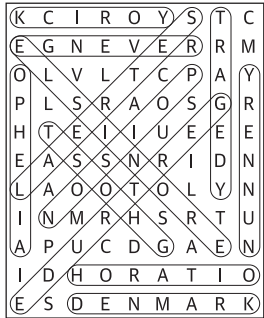
6.0 Strong Poison (5/6) **6.30** JD Salinger's Spiritual Quest **7.0** Flying the Flag (7/8) **7.30** The Unbelievable Truth (2/6) **8.0** Hancock's Half Hour (11/20) **8.30** Parsley Sidings (3/10) **9.0** Just a Minute (8/8) **9.30** The Club of Queer Trades (1/6) **10.0** The Havana Quartet (1/4) **11.0** The TED Interview **11.45** Comic Fringes (1/3) **12.0** Hancock's Half Hour (11/20) **12.30** Parsley Sidings (3/10) **1.0** Strong Poison (5/6) **1.30** JD Salinger's Spiritual Quest **2.0** The Miniaturist (1/10) **2.15** The Invention of Childhood (11/30) **2.30** My Life With Flu (1/5) **2.45** Where Memories Go: Why Dementia Changes Everything **3.0** The Havana Quartet (1/4) **4.0** Just a Minute (8/8) **4.30** The Club of Queer Trades (1/6) **5.0** Flying the Flag (7/8) **5.30** The Unbelievable Truth (2/6)

(1/4) **4.0** Just a Minute (8/8) **4.30** The Club of Queer Trades (1/6) **5.0** Flying the Flag (7/8) **5.30** The Unbelievable Truth (2/6) **6.0** Isaac Asimov's I, Robot **6.15** The Haunting of Hill House (1/8) **6.30** A Good Read **7.0** Hancock's Half Hour (11/20) **7.30** Parsley Sidings (3/10) **8.0** Strong Poison (5/6) **8.30** JD Salinger's Spiritual Quest **9.0** The TED Interview **9.45** Comic Fringes (1/3) **10.0** Comedy Club: The Unbelievable Truth (2/6) **10.30** Tina C's Global Depression Tour (6/6) **10.45** Knockor (6/6) **11.0** The News Quiz Extra (1/7) **11.45** Elastic Planet (1/6) **12.0** Isaac Asimov's I, Robot **12.15** The Haunting of Hill House (1/8) **12.30** A Good Read **1.0** Strong Poison (5/6) **1.30** JD Salinger's Spiritual Quest **2.0** The Miniaturist (1/10) **2.15** The Invention of Childhood (11/30) **2.30** My Life With Flu (1/5) **2.45** Where Memories Go: Why Dementia Changes Everything **3.0** The Havana Quartet (1/4) **4.0** Just a Minute (8/8) **4.30** The Club of Queer Trades (1/6) **5.0** Flying the Flag (7/8) **5.30** The Unbelievable Truth (2/6)

Puzzles

Friday's solutions

Wordsearch



Sudoku no 4,260

4	2	3	6	1	7	9	8	5
6	5	1	4	8	9	2	3	7
7	9	8	2	5	3	1	6	4
9	7	6	5	3	1	4	2	8
3	4	5	9	2	8	6	7	1
1	8	2	7	4	6	3	5	9
2	6	7	1	9	5	8	4	3
8	1	4	3	7	2	5	9	6
5	3	9	8	6	4	7	1	2

Suguru

2	3	4	3	5	1
4	1	2	1	2	4
3	5	3	4	5	3
1	2	1	2	1	2
3	5	4	3	4	3
4	1	2	5	2	1

Word wheel
SPADEWORK

Saturday's Quick crossword
Solution no 15,183



Steve Bell
If... flashback



Pet corner

Which artist had a dachshund called Archie?
a. Lucian Freud
b. Jackson Pollock
c. David Hockney
d. Andy Warhol
Answer top right



Quick crossword

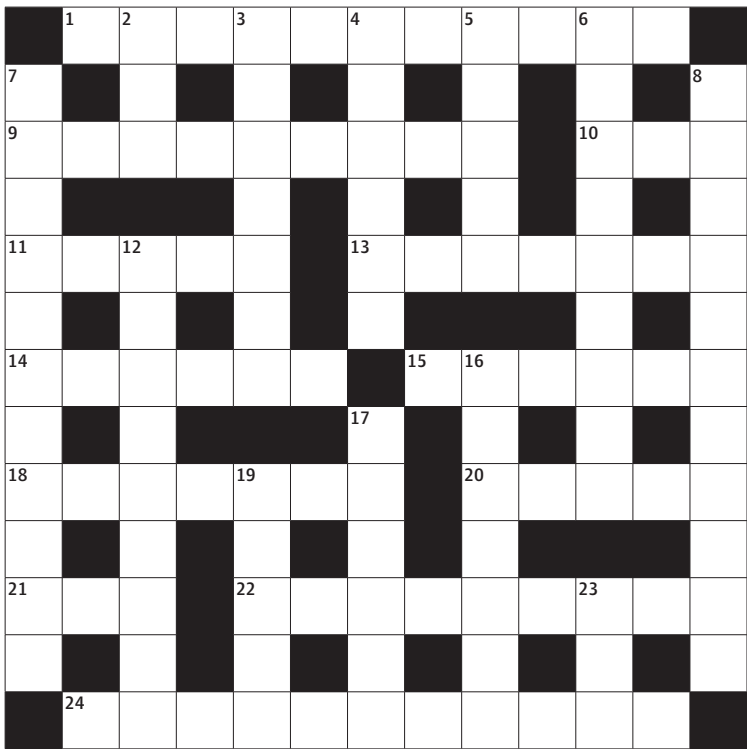
no 15,184

Across

- 1 Remain south (anag) – migratory bird (5,6)
- 9 Forerunner (9)
- 10 Sound made by a pigeon (3)
- 11 Dusk to dawn (5)
- 13 Purported (7)
- 14 Hostelry (6)
- 15 Pounce – pogo stick part (6)
- 18 Meander (anag) (7)
- 20 Drink alcohol (5)
- 21 Not many (3)
- 22 Shopping by post (4,5)
- 24 Striking (3-8)

Down

- 2 Half and half? (3)
- 3 Stroll (7)
- 4 Foreign intelligence agency (6)
- 5 Relating to the countryside (5)
- 6 With one's identity concealed (9)
- 7 Wastrel (11)
- 8 Fictitious name (3,2,6)
- 12 Yielding (6,3)
- 16 Bagpipe music (7)
- 17 Junkie (6)
- 19 Ape (5)
- 23 Loud noise (3)



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Sudoku

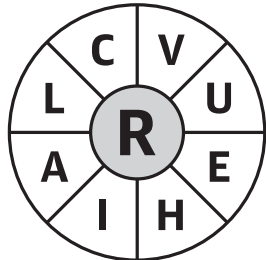
no 4,262

Easy. Fill the grid so that each row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9. Printable version at theguardian.com/sudoku

			9	5	
	6		3		4
	2			5	8
				2	
7	3			6	8
	4				
6			7		2
	1	2		8	
				4	3
				9	6

Word wheel

Find as many words as possible using the letters in the wheel. Each must use the central letter and at least two others. Letters may be used only once. You may not use plurals, foreign words or proper nouns. There is at least one nine-letter word to be found. TARGET: Excellent-70. Good-63. Average-52.



Suguru

Fill the grid so that each square in an outlined block contains a digit. A block of two squares contains the digits 1 and 2, a block of three squares contains the digits 1, 2 and 3, and so on. No same digit should appear in neighbouring squares, not even diagonally.

			5		
	4	1			
				2	4
2		3			

Wordsearch

Can you find 12 items of French food in the grid? Words can run forwards, backwards, vertically or diagonally, but always in a straight, unbroken line.

